



Page 13

New head of watchdog agency vows consumers will be top focus

By MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new head of the U.S. consumer watchdog agency says she doesn't have immediate targets in mind for rolling back actions taken by her controversial predecessor, and will put protecting consumers in the forefront while also encouraging financial innovation. Kathy Kraninger, nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate last week on a narrow, party-line vote, has replaced Mick Mulvaney as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.



Continued on Page 3

New Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection director Kathy Kraninger speaks to media at the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection offices in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

Mulvaney, named by Trump as acting director a year ago, had been a vocal critic of the agency and made deep changes to it. He proposed cutting back many of the CFPB's rules put in place during the Obama administration and scaled back its enforcement efforts.

"We absolutely will put consumers first in the decisions that I will make," Kraninger said Tuesday in her first meeting with reporters. A leading priority will be the security and privacy of data, what the agency collects from consumers and what it stores, she said. Extensive review and consultation will come before those decisions are made, Kraninger said.

"I want to understand why and how something was done before."

Many observers expect Kraninger to run the agency in a similar industry-friendly way to Mulvaney's. Kraninger is taking up a five-year term as CFPB director. She worked as a mid-level official in the White House's budget office, most recently under Mulvaney, who remains its head.

Kraninger has no experience in financial services and had never run a federal agency before — prompting Democratic lawmakers to oppose her nomination.

Mulvaney's actions spurred the departure of many high-level staff members at the agency, including deputy director Leandra English and Seth Frotman,

who was the top official overseeing student loan issues. Mulvaney hired several Republican political operatives to oversee nearly all parts of the agency's operations.

In her meeting with reporters, Kraninger said there are "appropriate roles" for both career staff and political appointees at the CFPB. She didn't reject outright Mulvaney's view that the CFPB under Obama appointee Richard Cordray had overreached in its enforcement actions against companies selling financial products and services.

The CFPB was created as an independent agency by the landmark Dodd-Frank law that overhauled the regulations governing Wall Street and banks around the country in the wake of the 2008-09 financial crisis. Its director was given broad latitude to act alone, without winning agreement from members of an agency board.

While it enforces consumer-protection laws, the CFPB also gained powers to scrutinize the practices of virtually any business selling financial products and services: credit card companies, payday lenders, mortgage servicers, debt collectors, for-profit colleges, auto lenders, money-transfer agents. Under Cordray, the agency undertook enforcement actions against an array of companies large and small, and claimed that it returned tens of billions of dollars to consumers harmed by illegal practices.

With the Democrats hav-

ing won control of the U.S. House as a result of the midterm elections, oversight of the CFPB under Kraninger will surely intensify. Rep. Maxine Waters, the California Democrat who will head the House Financial Services Committee,

has been sharply critical of Mulvaney's tenure. Consumer groups have kept up their opposition. "Kraninger needs to take concrete steps toward getting the agency back to its true mission: protecting consumers and the public

interest," Lisa Donner, executive director of Americans for Financial Reform, said in a statement. "Kraninger needs to change course and return to the job of standing up for people ripped off by Wall Street and predatory lenders." □

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Trump threatens shutdown in wild encounter with Democrats

By MATTHEW DALY and
 CATHERINE LUCEY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a wild Oval Office confrontation, President Donald Trump heatedly threatened to shut down the U.S. government Tuesday as he and Democratic leaders bickered over funding for his promised border wall and offered a grim preview of life in Washington the next two years under divided government.

Trump and House and Senate Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer squabbled for more than 15 minutes in the stunning, televised encounter. Each of them, especially Trump, interrupted the others to question facts, quibble over election results and lob insults.

Trump questioned Pelosi's ability to count votes in her own House. She questioned his manhood — after she left the building.

The public clash marked Trump's first meeting with the newly empowered Democrats since their midterm victories that put them in control of the House, laying bare the tensions on both sides and suggesting how divided government might work — or not — as the 2020 presidential election nears.

Neither the public nor the private face-to-face portion of the meeting appeared to resolve the wall-funding dispute with a partial shutdown looming on Dec. 21. However, Pelosi said Trump called her later in the afternoon and told her the White House was looking at options she and Schumer had laid out.

In the public debate, Trump sounded more determined than ever to allow a partial government shutdown un-

less he gets the billions he wants for his long-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I will take the mantle. I will

rity and the wall as a critical part. Democrats were in no mood to sympathize, emphasizing their newfound political strength.

majority at the end of the month.

Trump is seeking far more for his long-stalled border wall than the \$1.6 billion

said there should not be a "Trump shutdown."

"Did you say Trump?" the president said, as the two argued over whether Trump had enough Republican votes in the House to support his border wall plan.

"The fact is that you do not have the votes in the House," Pelosi declared.

Trump shot back, "Nancy, I do."

Also in a fighting mood, Schumer accused Trump of threatening a shutdown "because you can't get your way."

Trump heckled Schumer over a previous shutdown, saying "the last time you shut it down you got killed" politically.

Pelosi and Schumer both repeatedly asked to make the conversation private, without success, as Trump argued that the public meeting was a good thing: "It's called transparency."

Trump repeatedly returned to his argument that the border wall is needed for security reasons. He also argued that "tremendous" portions of the wall have already been built. In fact, some barrier renovation has happened, but little wall construction has been completed under Trump.

If Democrats refuse to support the wall, the military will build the remaining sections, Trump said.

"The wall will get built," he insisted.

Hours after the meeting ended, a Pentagon spokesman said in a statement that "there is no plan" for the military to build sections of a border wall. But Army Lt. Col. Jamie Davis added that the military may have the power to fund "barrier projects" in national emergencies or to counter the drug trade. □



Vice President Mike Pence, center, listens as President Donald Trump argues with House Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

be the one to shut it down," he declared.

Pelosi later crowed that she and Schumer had goaded the president to "fully own that the shutdown was his." She told Democratic lawmakers back at the Capitol, according to an aide who was in the room, that the wall was "like a manhood thing for him ... as if manhood could ever be associated with him. This wall thing."

The aide was not authorized to speak publicly and commented only on condition of anonymity.

While Trump has suggested he may be willing to trade with Democrats and has publicly praised Pelosi, he was focused Tuesday on reinforcing his hardline immigration promises, repeatedly stressing border secu-

"Elections have consequences, Mr. President," said Schumer.

Trump later called it a "friendly meeting," saying "I've actually liked them for a long period of time and I respect them both. And we made a lot of progress." The Democrats said they had given Trump two options to keep government open and the responsibility lay with him and Republicans who control Congress.

The wall remains the main sticking point in talks. Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan acknowledged Tuesday that the GOP-led House has yet to pass legislation that includes the \$5 billion in border wall funds that Trump has been requesting. Ryan likely lacks sufficient votes from Republicans who will lose their

the Senate has agreed to for border security, including physical barriers and technology along the U.S. southern border.

Should the two sides not make a deal by Dec. 21, about three-quarters of the government would continue to have enough money to operate. But departments affected absent a deal include Homeland Security, Transportation, Agriculture, State and Justice, as well as national parks.

Both sides came into the negotiating session primed for battle. After a few nice-ties, Trump dug into Democrats on the border wall, prompting a stern rebuke from Schumer that the issue at hand was "called funding the government." Trump soon started scrapping with Pelosi, when she

Official: California must mull home ban in fire-prone areas

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California's increasingly deadly and destructive wildfires have become so unpredictable that government officials should consider banning home construction in vulnerable areas, the state's top firefighter says.

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Ken Pimlott will leave his job Friday after 30 years with the agency. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said government and citizens must act differently to protect lives and property from fires that now routinely threaten large populations.

That may mean rethinking subdivisions in thickly forested mountainous areas or homes along Southern California canyons lined with tinder-dry chaparral. Yet Los Angeles County supervisors stung by California's housing shortage approved a massive rural housing development Tuesday despite the fire danger.

Developers said the 19,000-home community in rugged mountains 65 miles (105 kilometers) north of downtown Los Angeles would be built to minimize fire hazards with anti-ember construction and buffers around homes. It would include four new fire stations and roads wide enough to help people evacuate from an area the state has designated as a "high" and "very high" fire hazard zone.

Faced with such dangers, California residents should train themselves to respond more quickly to warnings and make preparations to shelter in place if they can't outrun the flames, Pimlott said.

Communities in fire zones need to harden key buildings with fireproof construction similar to the way cities prepare for earthquakes, hurricanes or tornadoes, and should prepare commercial or public buildings



In this Nov. 14, 2018, file photo, Ken Pimlott, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, left, shows California Gov. Jerry Brown where smoke is still rising from a smoldering tree during a tour of the fire ravaged Paradise Elementary School in Paradise, Calif.

Associated Press

to withstand fires with the expectation hundreds may shelter there as they did in makeshift fashion when flames last month largely destroyed the Sierra Nevada foothills city of Paradise in Northern California. California already has the nation's most robust building requirement programs for new homes in fire-prone areas, but recent fire seasons underscore more is needed. Officials must consider prohibiting construction in particularly vulnerable areas, said Pimlott, who has led the agency through the last eight years under term-limited Gov. Jerry Brown.

He said it's uncertain if those decisions should be made by local land managers or at the state level as legislative leaders have suggested. But Pimlott said "we owe it" to homeowners, firefighters and communities "so that they don't have to keep going through what we're going through."

"We've got to continue to raise the bar on what we're doing and local land-use planning decisions have to be part of that discussion," he said.

California's population has doubled since 1970 to nearly 40 million, pushing urban sprawl into mountain subdivisions, areas home to fast-burning grasslands and along scenic canyons and

dead trees and thinning forested areas that are crowded with trees that can fuel fires, contrary to criticism by President Donald Trump who has blamed forest mismanagement for the fires.

"No other state, or even the federal government, are putting the amount of investment into this space as California," Pimlott said. The department's philosophy for many years has been to stamp out fires quickly to protect people and property. Prescribed burns were previously used sparingly out of concern they could get out of control, but he said the department is making "a sea change" by recognizing that starting fires under optimum conditions is a good way to reduce dangerous fuels.

Recent fires that have burned into cities have made clear that those protections need to be centered around vulnerable communities, he said. Paradise, for example, was built on a ridge atop steep canyons that helped channel the wind-driven fire, while wildfires have repeatedly blown into Northern and Southern California subdivisions from neighboring wildlands thick with tinder-dry fuel.

Pimlott rose through the ranks from seasonal firefighter to deputy director of fire protection before his appointment as chief of the agency.

In that role he doubles as the state's chief forester and oversees a department that includes nearly 8,000 firefighters, forest managers and support staff.

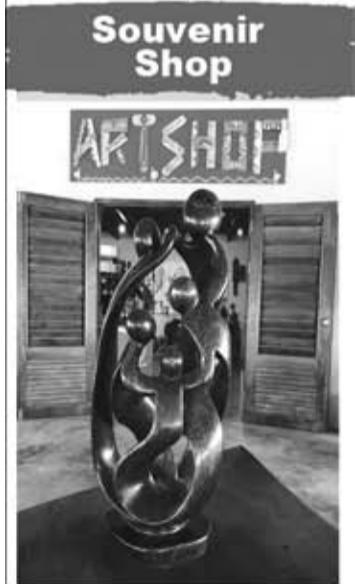
He said he has seen fire conditions worsen each passing year during his three decades with the agency, taking its toll on residents and firefighters alike.

"Folks can say what they want to say, but firefighters are living climate change. It's staring them in the face every day," he said. □

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California judge orders porn star to pay Trump legal fees



In this Oct. 11, 2018, file photo, adult film actress Stormy Daniels arrives for the opening of the adult entertainment fair "Venus" in Berlin.

Associated Press

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CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Porn star Stormy Daniels must pay President Donald Trump nearly \$293,000 for his attorneys' fees and another \$1,000 in sanctions after her defamation suit against him was dismissed, a federal judge in Los Angeles ordered Tuesday.

Trump's attorney, Charles Harder, had requested nearly \$390,000 in fees, but Judge S. James Otero cut the amount by 25 percent. He also wanted a nearly equal amount in sanctions, but only received \$1,000. Attorney Michael Avenatti, who represents Daniels, tweeted the order "will never hold up on appeal." Daniels alleges she had an affair with Trump in 2006 and was paid \$130,000 as part of a nondisclosure agreement days before the 2016 presidential election.

She sued him after he dismissed her claims of being threatened to keep quiet about the tryst as a "total con job."

The judge threw out that case in October.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, still has a case pending in Los Angeles challenging a nondisclosure agreement she signed with Trump's then-lawyer Michael Cohen to prevent her from discussing the alleged affair.

"If Stormy has to pay \$300k to Trump in the defamation case (which will never hold up on appeal) and Trump has to pay Stormy \$1,500,000 in the NDA case (net \$1,200,000 to Stormy), how is this a Trump win?" Avenatti tweeted.

Harder defended a nearly \$390,000 legal bill and asked for an equal amount in sanctions as a deterrent

against a "repeat filer of frivolous defamation cases."

Otero previously noted that fees by Harder's firm — as high as \$840 an hour — were reasonable but the 580 hours spent on the case appeared to be excessive. Daniels alleges she had a one-night affair.

She sued him earlier this year seeking to break a non-disclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 election about the tryst as part of a \$130,000 hush money settlement. Trump has denied the affair, but essentially acknowledged the payment to Daniels.

Despite the deal to stay quiet, Daniels spoke out publicly and alleged that five years after the affair she was threatened to keep quiet by a man she did not recognize in a Las Vegas parking lot.

She also released a composite sketch of the mystery man.

She sued Trump for defamation after he responded to her allegation by tweeting:

"A sketch years later about a nonexistent man. A total con job, playing the Fake News Media for Fools (but they know it)!"

Otero ruled in October that Trump's statement was "rhetorical hyperbole" against a political adversary and was protected speech under the First Amendment.

Although the lawsuit didn't get far before Otero tossed it, he said it was a "one of a kind" case that demanded a fair bit of legal work.

Daniels has appealed Otero's decision and Avenatti said Monday he expects to prevail at a higher court.

Avenatti also said he will be seeking attorney's fees against Trump in the ongoing hush money case and he anticipates being awarded a figure that "dwarfs exponentially" what Trump is seeking in the defamation case, possibly exceeding \$2 million.

Trump's lead attorney previously said the fees and unspecified monetary sanctions were earned because of the extraordinary nature of the defamation case and because of Avenatti's gamesmanship.

"This action is virtually unprecedented in American legal history," Harder wrote in court papers.

Daniels "not only brought a meritless claim for defamation against the sitting president of the United States, but she also has engaged, along with her attorney, in massive national publicity." In a related case in which Daniels has alleged that her former lawyer, Keith Davidson, colluded with Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen to have her publicly deny the affair with Trump.

Cohen has pleaded guilty to several felonies and admitted funneling money to Daniels to keep her quiet about an affair she has said she had with Trump.

Avenatti was arrested last month on suspicion of domestic violence.

Prosecutors declined bringing felony charges against Avenatti.

They are investigating whether he should face a misdemeanor charge for allegations he roughed up a girlfriend.

Avenatti has denied wrongdoing.

The Cohen and Davidson lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court is on hold until May. □



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Top border security official defends use of tear gas

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's top border security official told skeptical senators Tuesday that the use of tear gas on a group of migrants that included children was justified to manage a chaotic clash where a crowd was hurling rocks at agents and trying to illegally cross into the U.S. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, answering questions on the separation of families, enforcement operations, illegal drugs and funding for the border wall — at the same time President Donald Trump was publicly arguing with Democratic leaders at the Oval Office on the topic. Border security officials said somewhere between 500 and 1,000 migrants tried to cross the border illegally

Nov. 25 near California's San Ysidro port, prompting an hourslong shutdown. Tear gas and pepper balls were deployed on the crowd and some children inhaled the gas.

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California questioned whether children were intentionally hit with tear gas, and challenged its use. "We did not target young children," McAleenan responded, saying agents used pepper balls and gas after rocks were hurled. "I think it's remarkable that agents were able to resolve the situation without any serious injuries or a breach of the border," he said.

The chaos began after a peaceful protest by some of the thousands of migrants marooned in Mexico after traveling on foot from Honduras. There were 42 arrests on the U.S. side, but no one was criminally pros-

ecuted, in part because there wasn't enough proper documentation.

McAleenan said there would be a review of the incident, as all force incidents are reviewed, but he said the agents were acting consistent with their training.

Agents are authorized to use deadly force when there is reasonable belief that there is an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person.

They have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force: It must be both "objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties," and used when other "empty hand" techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

On border security, McAleenan said his agency wants 1,100 miles of a



Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan testifies before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Oversight of U.S. Customs and Border Protection' on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Associated Press

"border wall system" with Mexico that would include natural barriers and steel fencing that agents can see through. He said barriers would be an important tool to help deter illegal crossings, but he also urged the senators to look at the entire immigration system — and asked for more agents and better technology. Customs and Border Protection is the country's largest federal law enforcement agency, with more than 23,000 officers at border crossings and airports, and 20,000 border patrol agents who police between ports of entry. □

Former Cuomo economic guru sentenced to prison

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The former head of the State University of New York's Polytechnic Institute was sentenced Tuesday to 3½ years in prison for his role in corrupting the state's Buffalo Billion project. Alain Kaloyeros, 62, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by Judge Valerie E. Caproni, who noted that the Beirut-born scientist was "living the American dream" until he wandered into corruption that stretched into the

office of Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo once called Kaloyeros his "economic guru" and the governor invited him to appear at the announcement of various economic development projects. Cuomo was not accused of wrongdoing himself in the Buffalo Billion prosecution or another related case involving bribes paid to a top aide, but the corruption allegations have left a cloud over his administration.

The judge said Kaloyeros became "the Apple in



In this Thursday, July 12, 2018, file photo, Alain Kaloyeros, a former president of the State University of New York's Polytechnic Institute, arrives to federal court in New York.

Associated Press

Cuomo's eyes" as the governor initiated the biggest development project in upstate New York in recent memory. She fined Kaloyeros \$100,000. The judge said he can remain free on bail until a federal appeals court considers a substantial legal question. However, she said he must report to prison two months after the appeals court rules.

Kaloyeros, who apologized to New York state residents, was convicted in July of conspiracy and wire fraud. □

France shooting: 2 dead, several wounded in Strasbourg

By SYLVIE CORBET

LORI HINNANT

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A shooting in the French city of Strasbourg killed two people and wounded 11 others, officials said, sparking a broad lockdown and major security operation around a world-famous Christmas market Tuesday. Authorities said the shooter remains at large.

French prosecutors said a terrorism investigation was opened into the shooting, though authorities haven't announced a motive. It's unclear if the market — which was the nucleus of an al-Qaida plot in 2000 — was targeted. The city is also home to the European Parliament, which was locked down after the shooting.

The gunman has been identified and has a criminal record, according to Interior Minister Christophe Castaner. The prefect of the Strasbourg region says the gunman had been flagged as a suspected extremist.



In this image made from video, emergency services arrive on the scene of a Christmas market in Strasbourg, France, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

The attack came as France has been wracked by four weeks of protests against President Emmanuel Macron, and police forces have been stretched by fighting rioting and other protest-related unrest. Macron himself adjourned a

meeting at the presidential palace on Tuesday night to be able to monitor the events, his office said, indicating the gravity of the attack.

The interior minister and the Paris prosecutor, who is in charge of anti-terror probes

in France, headed Tuesday night to Strasbourg. The prosecutor's office says the

Associated Press

investigation is for murder and attempted murder in relation with a terrorist enterprise.

Several of the wounded are in critical condition, Castaner said.

In multiple neighborhoods of Strasbourg, the French Interior Ministry called on the public to remain indoors. French soldiers were on patrol after the shooting. "Our security and rescue services are mobilized," Castaner said.

Local authorities tweeted for the public to "avoid the area of the police station," which is close to the city's Christmas market. Strasbourg's well-known market is set up around the city's cathedral during the Christmas period and becomes a major gathering place.

Images from the scene show police officers, police vehicles and barricades surrounding the sparkling lights of the market. □

If Brexit changes are off the table, time for 'reassurances'



A leave the European Union, Brexit supporter protests by saying he was "taking a stand" across the street from the House of Parliament in London, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Associated Press

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's prime minister concedes Parliament won't approve her Brexit plan without changes. The European Union says no changes are possible.

So what's a politician to do? Play with words.

A day after Prime Minister Theresa May canceled a

Brexit vote she was sure to lose, leaders on both sides of the Channel sought Tuesday to salvage their deal.

European leaders made clear they would not accept changes to the plan: "There is no room whatsoever for renegotiation," said European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. □

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Yemen's warring sides said to agree on prisoner swap

By DAVID KEYTON

SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

RIMBO, Sweden (AP) —

Both sides in Yemen's civil war agreed Tuesday to exchange more than 15,000 prisoners by Jan. 20, a member of the rebel delegation said, in what could be the first major breakthrough in the 4-year-old conflict that has killed thousands of people and left millions more facing hunger.

Delegations from the internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and Iran-backed Shiite rebels said at news conferences in Sweden that they have exchanged prisoner lists. The lists will be reviewed over four weeks, ahead of a final swap to be facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the representatives said.

The move is a crucial step in implementing an agreement reached earlier this month on the exchange of all prisoners held by both sides.

The government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition, said it has provided U.N. mediators with an initial list of 8,200 prisoners allegedly held by the rebels, known as Houthis.

The government list included members of the family of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was killed by the Houthis in December 2017. It also included more than 300 children and 88 women.

The rebel delegation said it has provided its own list of prisoners held by the government.

"The Houthis provided a list of 7,487 captives and detainees. We provided a (list) of 8,576 detainees,"

serious. For us, we are serious and ready at the moment," he said.

Houthi representative

itics" with partners, said U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq.

"If this can be achieved,

dress Thursday's closing session of the current round of talks.

The Shiite rebels seized the capital of Sanaa in 2014. The Saudis intervened the following year. The civil war has killed at least 10,000 people, though the figure is believed to be higher, and turned Yemen into one of world's worst humanitarian crises with 22 million of its 29 million people in need of aid, according to the U.N. While the prisoner agreement created a measure of goodwill between the warring sides, an agreement to reduce violence in the strategic port city of Hodeida would create a climate more conducive toward seeking a settlement to the conflict.

Rebel delegation member Gamal Amer said both sides are discussing initial draft proposals for Hodeida. The proposals include a halt to all fighting, the withdrawal of troops to the city limits and later out of the province, while allowing U.N. oversight and setting up a local administration, Amer said in video comments.

An agreement on Hodeida is expected to be reached before heading to another future round of peace talks, Amer added, without elaborating. U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said Monday that 20 million people, amounting to 70 percent of the population of Yemen, are hungry, adding that there has been "a significant, dramatic deterioration" of the humanitarian situation in the country. □



Yemenis walk through market in the old city of Sanaa, Yemen, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Associated Press

said Askar Zouail of the government delegation. "But the number of detainees (held by the rebels) exceeds 18,000 detainees since the beginning of the war" in March 2015.

While U.N. officials at the talks called the exchange of prisoner lists "very impressive," the sheer size of the swap could potentially delay the process beyond the Jan. 20 deadline and hinder implementation of the deal.

Othman Mujali, who is agriculture minister in the Hadi government, said both sides are considering a mechanism for implementing the swap.

"We hope the other side is

Abdul-Qader el-Murtaza said the government list includes prisoners from member countries in the coalition, such as Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

He said Jan. 20 was set a final date for the prisoner swap overseen by the Red Cross. A period of four weeks was set for any questions and for verification of the prisoners' names, "then there will be 10 days for the Red Cross to prepare logistic and technical matters for the transfer and exchange of the prisoners," el-Murtaza said.

The U.N. is hopeful that details of the prisoner release will be worked out and "we can handle the logis-

tic" with partners, said U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq.

"If this can be achieved,

tics" with partners, said U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq.

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Lebanon: Israel border tunnel operation won't endanger calm

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's president said Tuesday Israel's operation to destroy what it says is a series of cross-border attack tunnels built by the militant Hezbollah group won't endanger the calm along the frontier, adding that his country takes the issue seriously.

Michel Aoun spoke hours before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the border where he said the Israeli military has discovered a third tunnel.

"If Hezbollah makes the big mistake and decides in any way to harm us or to resist the operation we are conducting, it will be hit in a way it cannot even imagine," said Netanyahu.

The Israeli army said its soldiers placed explosives in the tunnel revealed Tuesday, warning Iran-backed Hezbollah against entering it. Netanyahu said an Israeli military delegation is heading to Russia to explain the border operation. The meetings with Russian



Lebanese President Michel Aoun, right, shakes hands with his Austrian counterpart Alexander Van der Bellen, at the Presidential Palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Associated Press

counterparts are scheduled for Wednesday.

"It will make it unequivocally clear that Israel maintains its right and obligation to act against an Iranian military entrenchment in Syria, also a Hezbollah entrenchment in Syria and that of

Iran's proxies here, in their attempt to dig tunnels under the border," Netanyahu said.

Shortly before the launch of the operation last week, Netanyahu flew on a surprise trip to Brussels where he met with U.S. Secretary

of State Mike Pompeo to discuss the operation.

The peacekeeping force, or UNIFIL, confirmed the presence of two tunnels along the border. The mission's head, Maj. Stefano Del Col, said he met with Aoun and Lebanon's par-

liament speaker Tuesday and informed them that UNIFIL experts have inspected two tunnels near Metulla, along the border north of Israel.

"This is a serious matter and UNIFIL is working in close co-ordination with the parties both at the technical level as well as at the leadership level to ensure that all related facts are objectively determined and diligently addressed in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1701," Del Col said in a statement.

Aoun, a Hezbollah ally, said that Lebanon is prepared to address the issue after assessing a full report on the situation.

Aoun said the United States has informed Lebanon that Israel has "no aggressive intentions," adding that his country harbored none either.

"We are ready to remove the causes of the disagreements, but after we get the full report and decide what are the issues we need to handle," Aoun said. □

Thousands of Albanian students step up rally against fees



University and school students wave Albanian flags as they protest in Tirana, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Public university students protesting the cost of tuition fees have gathered for the largest rally to date, threatening to escalate it unless their demands are met.

Thousands of students on Tuesday held posters, blew vuvuzelas and shouted "Lower the tariffs!" in front of the Education Ministry. Students from other cities and Tirana high schools

joined them in a peaceful protest.

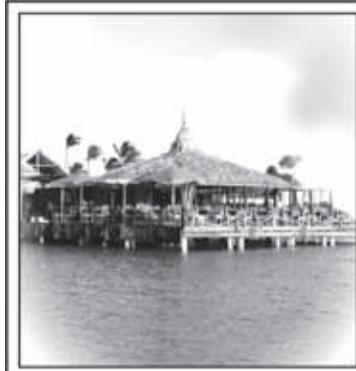
After an ultimatum to the government to fulfill their demands expired at 4 p.m. (1500 GMT), students dispersed in three groups — one stayed at the ministry, the other at a nearby cross-road and the third in front of the main government building, pledging to stay there overnight.

Prime Minister Edi Rama appealed for calm on Facebook, asking the pro-

testers to "build the bridge of communication with the government."

Rama blamed the opposition for pushing the students to prevent dialogue, while the main opposition Democratic Party leader Lulzim Basha said they supported the students.

Their demands include cutting tuition fees in half, setting a higher budget for education and a greater student presence on decision-making boards. □



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Russia says 114,000 Syrians returned home in 2018

By VLADIMIR ISHACHEN-KOV

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Nearly 114,000 Syrian refugees have returned home this year, the Russian military said Tuesday, a mere fraction of the nearly 6 million who have fled the country since the start of the seven-year conflict. U.N. agencies said they need \$5.5 billion in the coming year to support Syria's neighbors hosting the refugees.

The U.N. said Tuesday that Syria's neighbors, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, are hosting the majority of the Syrian refugees, while dealing with their own economic and social challenges. The U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, however, said it has verified only around 37,000 refugees who have voluntarily returned to Syria in 2018.

The agency also said that over the last eight years around one million Syrian children were born in the region and registered as refugees.

"It is critical that the inter-

national community continues to recognize the plight of Syrian refugees and provides vital support

in safety and dignity" said Amin Awad, the U.N. refugee agency director for the Middle East and North

stacles to their return are removed. Those obstacles include safety concerns for those who have fled gov-

support of Syrian President Bashar Assad, has pushed for the repatriation of refugees. Russian and Syrian officials have accused Western governments of blocking the return of refugees and reconstruction aid to Syria.

The U.S. and other European nations have said return of refugees must be voluntary, saying it is too early in the course of the war to encourage refugees to go home. Some say an inclusive political process is a prerequisite for reconstruction funding.

The repatriations demonstrate that "the war is over and the country's restoration is proceeding at full pace," said Russian Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev, who added that over 177,000 internally displaced people have also returned to their homes in 2018.

The conflict, which began with a peaceful uprising against Assad in 2011, has displaced half of Syria's 23 million people, including an estimated 5.6 million refugees living in neighboring countries. □



In this June 5, 2014, file photo, a man rides a bicycle through a part of Homs, Syria, devastated by the country's civil war.

Associated Press

to host governments and (U.N. agencies and NGO) partners to help shoulder this massive burden, while waiting for voluntary return

Africa. Awad said the U.N. is projecting that up to 250,000 refugees could be returning to Syria next year if ob-

ernment areas or military conscriptions, availability of services and other issues. Russia, which has waged a military campaign in 2015 in



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Cubans fly around the world hunting shopping bargains

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Most people don't think of Haiti as a shopping destination. Unless they're Cuban.

Every afternoon, hundreds of Cubans swarm a rutted crossroads in the capital of the hemisphere's poorest nation, hunting clothes, light bulbs, perfume and other goods that are in short supply back home.

Haitian vendors blast Cuban reggaeton music to draw in shoppers. In a year-old cafe painted with Cuban flags, Havana-born Angelina Luis Dominguez and her niece Yeleny Terry Luis serve black beans, rice and roast pork to compatriots on lunch breaks.

"There are thousands, thousands of Cubans," Luis Dominguez said. "There used to be four or five; now they've taken root. It feels like all of Cuba is here."

The "Cuban market" in Port-au-Prince is part of a global trade, estimated to top \$2 billion, fed by the confluence of Cubans' increased freedom to travel with the communist state's continued domination of the economy back home.

Clothing, housewares, hardware, personal-care products and other goods at state-run stores in Cuba cost two or three times what they do elsewhere. And that's when they are on sale at all in an economy hampered by incessant shortage. What's more, Cuba's state monopoly on imports and exports excludes the small but vibrant



Cuban women shop at a street market in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

private sector, which employs more than a half million people who often earn three or four times a state worker's salary.

Since Cuba did away with a hated exit permit five years ago, Cubans are packing flights to destinations with easy entry requirements. In Port-au-Prince, Panama City, Cancun, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, even Moscow, Cubans are packing suitcases with goods for personal use and resale back home.

In Panama, the Colon Free Trade Zone has a "Little Havana" where Cubans spent \$308 million last year, and are on track to spend perhaps 8 percent more in 2018, said Luis Carlos Saenz, the zone's general assistant manager.

"We now have an impor-

tant Cuban clientele who came to make purchases and are making a significant contribution to business in the zone," Saenz said. Panama is so eager for Cuban business that its embassy in Havana has started giving Cubans with private business licenses on-the-spot "tourist cards" that eliminate the need for a lengthy visa application process.

"More Cubans are coming now because of the tourist cards," said Jose Hernandez, who was shopping in the free zone with a group of relatives last week. "Taking back an air conditioner, an electric motorcycle is a big deal for us. In Cuba, that's gold."

That sort of business tourism has diversified a trade long centered on South Florida,

where Cubans with family ties in the U.S. relied on relatives to shuttle in personal or business goods. Driving the trade away from Miami has been the Trump administration's decision to pull most staff from its Havana embassy last year, ending visa processing there and forcing Cubans to travel to third countries to apply for permission to visit the U.S.

The Miami-based Havana Consulting Group estimated in an August study that Cubans spent more than \$2 billion in 2017 on bringing goods back to the island.

That spending may equal anywhere from 2 percent to 5 percent of Cuba's gross domestic product, depending on which of the wildly varying estimates of GDP is used in absence of reliable economic statistics

on the island's economy. Cuba maintains tight restrictions on the quantities that individuals can import, and working as a "mule" — bringing goods back for others — is technically prohibited, according to some official statements, but it is rarely prosecuted.

In the neighborhood surrounding the market, dozens of Cubans run bed-and-breakfasts for traveling shoppers in homes rented from Haitian owners. Dozens of Haitian "guides" help Cubans hunt down specialized goods like electronics and hardware.

"I have visas for Panama and Mexico but I like Haiti," said Eduardo Leiva, who runs a small hardware business in Cuba. "There's great variety of merchandise, a level of product that you don't find in other countries."

Tiny Sunrise Airways runs 12 direct flights weekly from the Cuban cities of Havana, Camaguey and Santiago to Port-au-Prince. Cubans interviewed in the market said they spend about \$700 on airfare, food and lodging and another \$700 on merchandise, which they resell at a markup high enough to make several hundred dollars profit per trip.

"The Cubans are very good for us. They come, they take merchandise back home, we get to make a little profit," said Terese Rencher, who buys Peruvian-made T-shirts with designer logos in the Dominican Republic and sells them at the "Cuban market." □

LOCAL



International Migrants Day

Do migrants have rights?



ORANJESTAD — Foundation Rancho & Centro di Actividad Rancho's objective are to give the Aruban community knowledge about the Rancho neighborhood in the heart of Oranjestad and its migrant community, creating awareness on the theme and creating exchanges between different communities in Rancho and Aruba. In the light of International Migrants Day, December 18th, the Foundation organizes a multiple day's program on the topic.

The foundation informs that at the moment, the refugee problem on the islands is increasingly being brought to the surface by the media. Often in a negative way. The role of the migrant and the cultural knowledge that it has brought to the islands is not mentioned much. For this reason, Foundation Rancho will organize 5 days of activities with the purpose to promote exchanges between communities and to highlight the role and impact of migrants on the island of Aruba.

International Migrants Day

Through the history of mankind, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual's will to overcome adversity and lead a better life. Today, globalization, together with advances in communication and transport, has significantly increased the number of people with the desire and ability to move to other places.

This new era has created challenges and opportunities for societies around the world. It has also served to underline the clear link between migration and development, as well as the opportunities it offers for co-development, that is, the joint improvement of economic and social conditions at both origin and destination. (Source: www.un.org)

5-days to Connect

Friday, December 14th, Centro di Actividad Rancho, will present an evening with interesting lectures of several local artists focusing on the topic of migrants in the Caribbean. Chando Pietersz, Benjamin Romero, Clifford Rosa and Linda Reijnders will elaborate upon this subject. You are welcome between 6 and 8 PM.

The next day at the same time invited immigrants will take part in a panel discussion as well as local professionals and artists from with different nationalities. Daniella Britten will be moderator, Yakari Gabriel, Luis Villegas, Nelson Gonzalez, Marelbis Redondo are the participating artists.

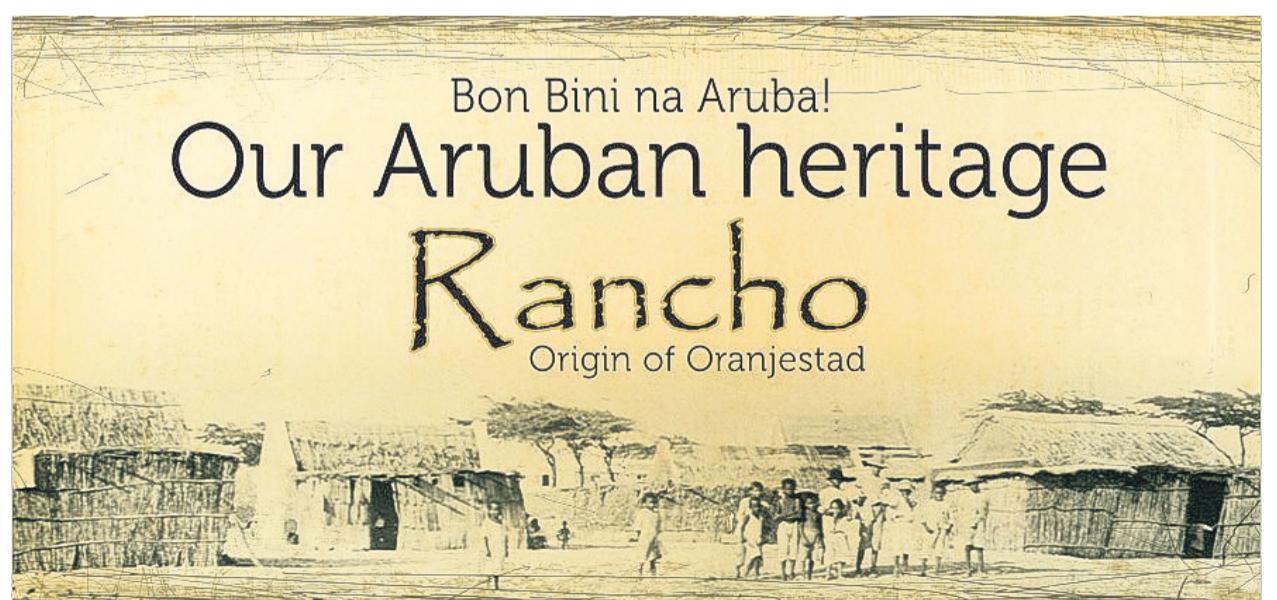
Sunday offers the opportunity to watch a Film & Documentaries about the live of migrants between 5.30 and 9 PM. Monday the foundation will take you on a walk through the multicultural neighborhood, starting from the foundation at 5.30 PM.

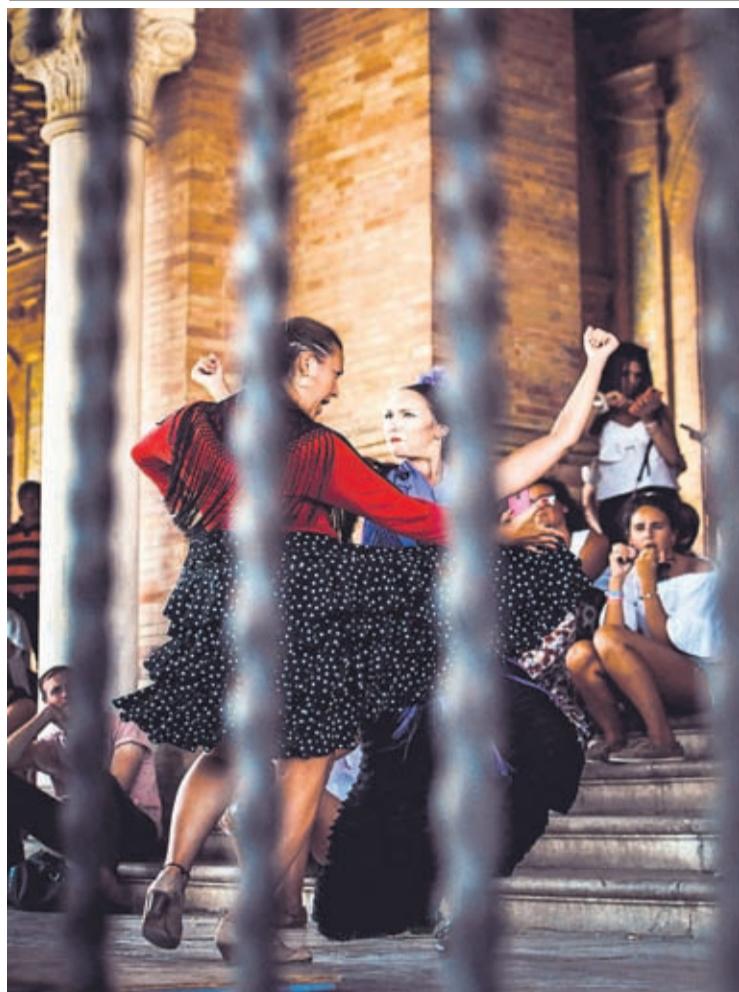
International Migrants Day, Tuesday December 18th, will be celebrated at Pleinchi Coco Rancho, in front of foundation Rancho's office between 5.30 and 9.30 PM. There will be music, food, poetry, open mic and more. Music by DJ and Producer Caleto, known for his impressive collection of old merengue and salsa music to which he added a modern touch.

This is your golden opportunity to mingle with locals and absorb some of the local culture that gives richness to our island. For more information please check Facebook Stichting Rancho and website <http://www.stichtingrancho.org/>. □



Photography art by Paul van Driel on multicultural face of Aruba





Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, non-conformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and on THURSDAY NIGHT they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bo-

hemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy.

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □

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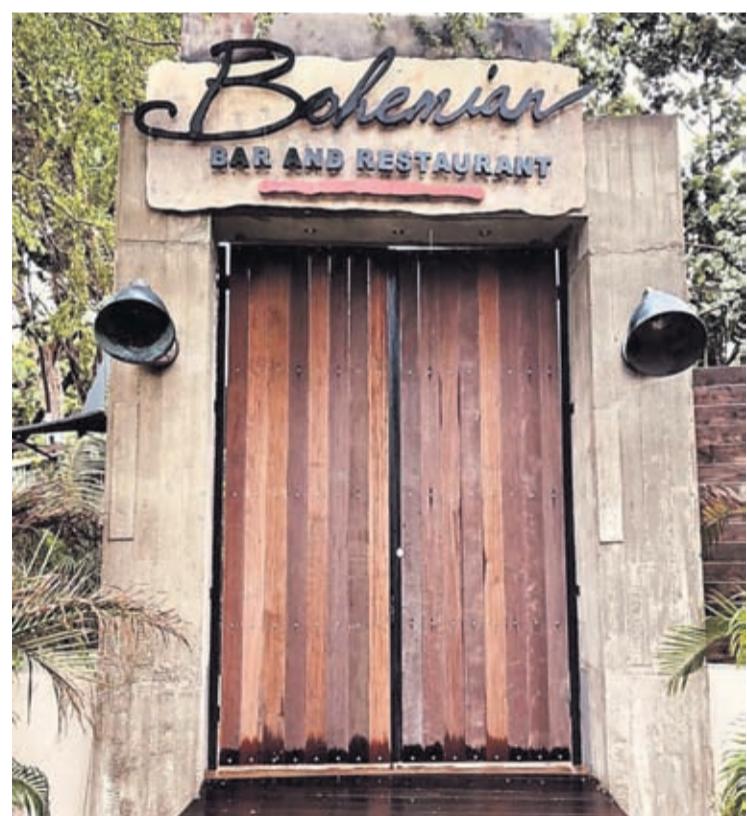
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CASINO AND SHOPS

Honoring the White family at Casa del Mar

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are Mr. Tom & Mrs. Denise White and their daughter Ms. Ashley White, residents of North Caldwell New Jersey. They have been coming to Aruba for more over 20 consecutive years. They love Aruba for so many reasons, the variety of restaurants, the different activities available, the lovely weather and the friendly staff at Casa del Mar.

De Cuba together with representatives of Casa del Mar presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years. □



Made in Aruba, Unique Gifts from Local Artisans



ORANJESTAD — They are right at the hotels and offer unique, locally manufactured artisan products. Foundation Aruba is organizing an art market that gives you the opportunity to admire and/or purchase some genuine products, all locally produced by local artisans. "This is not your regular souvenir that you may encounter in various Caribbean destinations, this is made in Aruba and only offered here", says Wendy Op De Weegh, one of the board members of the foundation.



Wendy Op De Weegh, Tia Hurkmans and Gabriella Gonzalez are the three board members of Foundation Aruba, all artisans themselves. Wendy: "I started making my own beads of glass and that triggered Tia and Gaby to join. We were friends and we noticed that we needed a platform to present our art. We were occasionally organizing events at home, but we were looking for more public." That is how the three came to the idea to find more local artisans and encountered a foundation that was in a kind of non-active state. They decided to take over and that is how it all started. "2013 our first organized event happened at Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad with Christmas time. It was a big success and from that time on it really took off. More and more artisans were engaged and the government also initiated the national seal for artisan products at that time and provided us with a list of artisans that were registered."

Your Vacation Memory

The aim of the foundation is to engage the artisans that create smaller pieces, locally produced and linked to Aruba. The perfect gift or souvenir. Think of jewelry in different materials, art with driftwood, soap and skin care, small paintings and so on. There is the jewelry made of the tail fin of lion fish by Lionfintastic. Lionfish are an invasive species from the Pacific and Indian Ocean, voracious eaters with no known predators. The handmade soap and skin care from olive oil and shea butter by CC Bath & Body is another unique gift as well as the wonderful jewelry made by recycled materials of Miljenou Tromp. Gloria Filiciana creates awesome artisan jewelry from among others genuine Aruban sea glass and what to think of a necklace of driftwood, created by Wise Wood. Turning a discarded material into a unique art craft is what Cemu offers you. But there is much more. You really need to check it out for yourselves as this is your chance to bring home a



real piece of Aruba. The best vacation memory or genuine gift.

The artisans market is on Mondays at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort between 4.30 and 6.30 PM, at Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6 and 9 PM at the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino and at Fridays between 7 and 10 PM at the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad.

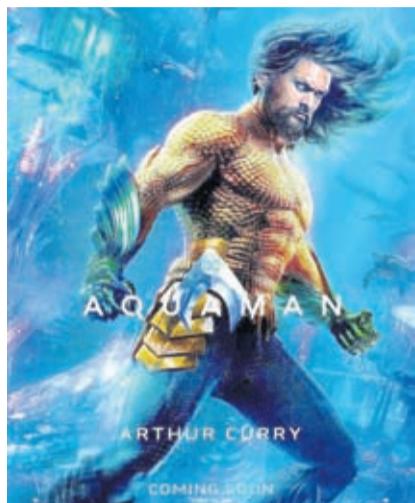
Check their Facebook Foundation ArUBA for more information. □



Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 12

Premiere Aquaman

- Be the first to watch this incredible Movie at the most enjoyable Cinema of Aruba!
- Starts at 11:50 PM
- The Cinema, Renaissance Aruba
- Facebook The Cinema



Saturday 15

Korteweg Pop Up

- Join us at KORTEWEG in Main Street, Oranjestad for a night of local art and artisans, snacks, drinks and music by Wine It Up!
- From 5:00 PM till 9:00 PM
- Korteweg, Oranjestad
- Facebook Korteweg



Thursday 13

A touch of Aruba

- Sweet Pan Music would like to invite you to their 3rd Anniversary celebration of "A Touch of Aruba" show. A cultural show this time with a Christmas touch, Steel-Pan music performance, dance group, singing & Art.
- From 7:00 PM till 9:30 PM
- Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort
- Facebook Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort



Friday 14

Aruba Fashion Week 2018

- After two successful editions, the most awaited fashion event in the Caribbean returns under the slogan #TheHappiest-FashionWeek, with new trends and proposals from December 14 to 16 at the paradisiacal island of Aruba, promising to be the most fun fashion and business experience in the Caribbean.
- From 9:00 PM till 2:00 AM
- Marketplace Pier, Renaissance
- Facebook Aruba Fashion Week 2018

Sunday 16

The Nutcracker

- The Nutcracker is one of the most beautiful, theatrical, staged ballets. The popularity of the ballet is immense and it provides an unforgettable spark to everyone's holiday season.
- From 3:00 PM till 5:00 PM
- Cas di Cultura, Oranjestad
- Facebook Kozlov Dance Academy



Monday 17

12 Days of Christmas Give aways

- Participate in the 12-Days of Christmas promotion to win \$25,000 in cash prizes and gift certificates!
- From 10:00 PM till 2:00 AM
- The Casino at the Ritz-Carlton Aruba
- Facebook The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

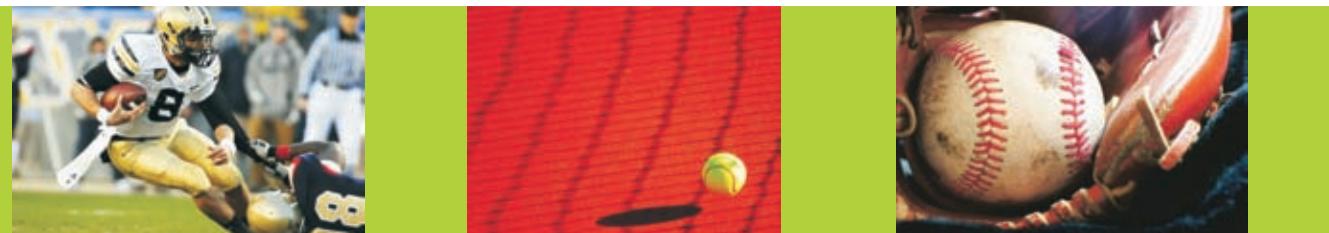
Tuesday 18

International Migrants Day in Rancho

- The role of the migrant and the cultural knowledge that it has brought to the islands is not mentioned much. For this reason, Stichting Rancho will organize 5 days of activities with the purpose to promote exchanges between communities and to highlight the role and impact of migrants on the island of Aruba. We will celebrate International Migrant Day 2018. With music by DJ Caleto, streets vendors, Art & local food. Don't miss this!
- From 5:30 AM till 9:30 PM
- John G. Emanstraat 9, Oranjestad
- Facebook Centro Di Actividad Rancho



SPORTS



In this July 22, 2018, file photo, Tiger Woods watches his shot on the 10th hole during the final round for the 147th British Open Golf championships in Carnoustie, Scotland. Woods says his pitching wedge from the bunker was his best shot of the year.

Associated Press

Reviewing 2018 based on all 14 clubs in the bag

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Brooks Koepka used a 9-iron on consecutive full swings in the final round at Shinnecock Hills. One led to birdie, the other led to par. Both were crucial in making him the first back-to-back U.S. Open champion in 29 years. Tiger Woods showed glimpses of being back on his game with a long iron and a short one. Tony Finau hit one of the luckiest shots in Ryder Cup history. They were among the memorable shots using all 14 clubs in the bag, from driver to putter, that helped shape 2018 on the PGA Tour.

DRIVER

Dustin Johnson hit the best shot he never saw. His driver on the 433-yard 12th hole at Kapalua disappeared over a steep slope and finally stopped rolling 6 inches in front of the cup.

Continued on Page 23

HEAT CHECK



LeBron's Lakers edge Wade's Heat in final meeting, 108-105

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) shoots over Los Angeles Lakers' Kyle Kuzma (0) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press
Page 20

Stamkos hat trick sparks Lightning to 6-3 win over Rangers

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Steven Stamkos had three goals to become the first player from the 2008 draft to reach 700 points, and the NHL-leading Tampa Bay Lightning won their seventh consecutive game by beating the New York Rangers 6-3 on Monday night.

Stamkos scored power-play goals that tied the game in the first and second periods. The center completed his ninth hat trick and first since Oct. 13, 2014, from the slot at 10:41 of the third.

The Lightning star has 701 points in 696 career games. He joins Martin St. Louis (953) and Vincent Lecavalier (874) as the only Tampa Bay players reaching the 700-point milestone.

Ryan McDonagh had a go-ahead goal, Anthony Cirelli had the other two Tampa Bay goals, and Louis Domingue made 23 saves.

Kevin Hayes had two goals and Jesper Fast also scored for the Rangers, who have lost six of eight (2-5-1). Henrik Lundqvist stopped 30 shots.

PENGUINS 2, ISLANDERS 1, SO

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Jake Guentzel scored the decisive goal in the shootout to lift Pittsburgh over the Islanders.

Guentzel also assisted on Derick Brassard's tying goal in the third period, helping Pittsburgh improve to 3-0-1 in its last four games. Casey DeSmith had 25 saves through regulation and overtime.

Penguins star Phil Kessel beat Robin Lehner in the

first round of the shootout, but Josh Bailey scored on New York's third attempt to keep the tiebreaker going. Valtteri Filppula was denied by DeSmith before Guentzel closed out the win for Pittsburgh.

DeSmith improved to 6-1-2 in his past nine starts.

Anthony Beauvillier scored in the second period for the Islanders, and Lehner finished with 23 stops.

RED WINGS 3, KINGS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Jimmy Howard made a season-high 42 saves and Dylan Larkin scored his 12th goal of the season to lift Detroit past Los Angeles.

Dennis Cholowski and Frans Nielsen also scored for the Red Wings, who improved to 13-6-2 in their last 21 games. Howard came within 6:38 of his first shutout of the season.

Anze Kopitar scored the only goal for Los Angeles. The Kings, who are tied with Chicago for the fewest points in the NHL, have been shut out only once this season. They spoiled Howard's bid in the third when Kopitar tapped in a loose puck at the doorstep.

SHARKS 5, DEVILS 2

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Timo Meier scored twice, Joe Pavelski added his 20th goal of the season and San Jose won for the fourth time in five games.

Radim Simek scored his first NHL goal, Tomas Hertl added a late power-play score and Martin Jones stopped 22 shots for the Sharks, who have not lost in regulation at home since Nov. 15.

Andy Greene and Drew Stafford scored for the Devils, who are a league-worst 3-11-2 on the road. □



Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos (91) celebrates his goal against the New York Rangers during the second period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

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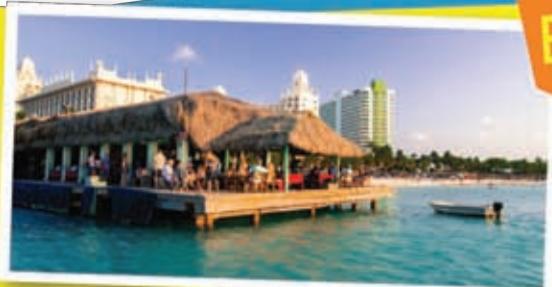
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Miami Heat's Justise Winslow, center, drives to the basket as Los Angeles Lakers' Tyson Chandler, left, and Kyle Kuzma (0) defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

James leads Lakers past Wade, Heat 108-105

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 28 points and the Los Angeles Lakers survived Dwyane Wade's 15-point performance in the second half of the superstars' probable final on-court meeting for a 108-105 victory over the Miami Heat on Monday night. The game appropriately ended with James guarding Wade, who missed a difficult 3-point attempt in the waning seconds. After the buzzer sounded, they shared a hug and a chat to close perhaps the final joint chapter of two careers that have intersected repeatedly since they entered the NBA together in 2003.

Wade intends to retire after this season, and Staples Center sent him out of Los Angeles in style with multiple standing ovations and a tribute video in the first quarter.

Kyle Kuzma scored 33 points for the Lakers, who have won 13 of 17 overall. Justise Winslow scored a career-high 28 points for Miami.

WARRIORS 116, TIMBERWOLVES 108

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry had 38 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Golden State got the win in Draymond Green's return to the lineup.

Klay Thompson scored 26 points and Kevin Durant had 22 as Golden State prepared for Wednesday's showdown with Toronto by earning its fourth straight win. Curry went 7 for 14 from 3-point range.

Green, the 2017 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, had seven points, 10 rebounds and seven assists after being sidelined for 11 games with a right toe injury.

Karl Anthony-Towns had 31 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota. Derrick Rose added 21 points.

76ERS 116, PISTONS 102

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid scored 24 points in his return to Philadelphia's lineup after a one-game absence.

Jimmy Butler, who had 38 points to lead Philadelphia to a 117-111 victory in Detroit on Friday, exited in the first half with a strained groin and did not return.

Luke Kennard finished with a career-high 28 points for the slumping Pistons (13-12), who have dropped five straight after five con-

secutive wins. Detroit was missing Blake Griffin, 10th in the NBA in scoring. Griffin was rested after the Pistons hosted New Orleans the previous night.

Embiid was given his own night off to rest on Friday after the 7-foot-2 star grew frustrated with his role following three straight sub-20-point performances.

Ben Simmons and Furkan Korkmaz each scored 18 points for the Sixers (19-9).

THUNDER 122, JAZZ 113

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Paul George scored 31 points and Dennis Schroder added 23, helping Oklahoma City to the win.

Steven Adams had 22 points for Oklahoma City in the first meeting between the teams since the Jazz eliminated the Thunder in six games in the first round of last season's playoffs. Oklahoma City star Russell Westbrook was 4 for 18 from the field, but finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Donovan Mitchell battled foul trouble much of the game but led the Jazz with 19 points. Rudy Gobert recorded his 23rd double-double of the season with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

CELTICS 113, PELICANS 100

BOSTON (AP) — Marcus Morris Sr. had a season-high 31 points, making three quick 3-pointers to start the second half, and Jayson Tatum scored 21 to lead a depleted Boston lineup to its sixth straight victory.

With Kyrie Irving, Al Horford, Gordon Hayward and Aaron Baynes all ill or injured, Jaylen Brown scored 19 points and first-round draft choice Robert Williams III had career highs of seven points and 11 rebounds in 25 minutes. □

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AP source: McCutchen, Phillies agree to \$50M, 3-year deal

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — All-Star outfielder Andrew McCutchen and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a \$50 million, three-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the agreement, which includes a club option for 2022, is subject to a successful physical.

The 32-year-old McCutchen

was an All-Star each season from 2011-15, topping .300 in batting average from 2012-14. He was the NL MVP in 2013.

McCutchen nine years with Pittsburgh before he was traded to San Francisco last winter. He was dealt to the New York Yankees on Aug. 31 and hit .255 with 20 homers and 65 RBIs in 155 games overall this year.

McCutchen has 223 homers, a .287 average and 790 RBIs in 10 major league seasons.

Philadelphia remains in-

terested in Bryce Harper, the top free agent on the market, but has a surplus of outfielders, including Odubel Herrera, Nick Williams, Aaron Altherr and Roman Quinn.

Rhys Hoskins is moving from left field to first base after the team traded Carlos Santana to Seattle for infielder Jean Segura last week.

Herrera, a former All-Star, is a trade candidate. He struggled in the second half last season and finished with career lows in batting average (.255) and on-base percentage (.310).

Philadelphia pursued Patrick Corbin and is still seeking a left-handed starter. □



In this Sept. 7, 2018, file photo, New York Yankees' Andrew McCutchen is greeted in the dugout after he hit a two-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, in Seattle.

Associated Press

Troy Tulowitzki released by Blue Jays, owed \$38M



This is a 2018 file photo showing Troy Tulowitzki of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Troy Tulowitzki has been released by the Toronto Blue Jays, who owe the oft-injured shortstop \$38 million for the remaining two years of his contract.

Now 34, Tulowitzki has not played in the major leagues since July 2017. He was limited that year to 66 games because of a hamstring and right ankle injury. The ankle required surgery last spring and he missed the entire season.

Tulowitzki was taken by Colorado with the seventh overall pick in the 2005 amateur draft and became a five-time All-Star. The Rock-

ies agreed after the 2010 season to a \$157.75 million, 10-year contract that added \$132 million over seven seasons, then traded him in July 2015 to Toronto in a deal that brought shortstop Jose Reyes to Colorado.

While Tulowitzki helped the Blue Jays reach that year's AL Championship Series, he slumped the next year and then was derailed by injuries.

He is owed \$20 million for next year, \$14 million for 2020 and a \$4 million buyout of the 2021 team option. Toronto announced the move Tuesday at the winter meetings. □

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Seahawks on brink of playoffs after 21-7 win over Vikings

By TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Bobby Wagner leaped over the line of scrimmage, swatted Dan Bailey's field goal attempt and sparked the Seattle Seahawks to two late touchdowns.

Whether or not what Wagner did was entirely legal, he frankly didn't care.

"I'm not stressing about that. I made the play. They called what they called," Wagner said. "There's times in games where things happen all the time. I'm not stressing on it. It was a big block and we'll definitely take it. It was amazing."

Wagner's block midway through the fourth quarter was the catalyst in a 21-7 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night that pushed Seattle to the brink of a playoff berth.

Chris Carson followed the blocked kick with a 2-yard TD run with 2:53 left, and Justin Coleman capped off the Seahawks' fourth straight victory with a 29-yard fumble return for a touchdown 18 seconds later. What was an ugly and mostly forgettable first three quarters turned



Seattle Seahawks' Bobby Wagner (54) leaps to block a field goal attempt by Minnesota Vikings' Dan Bailey in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Seattle.

Associated Press

into a Seattle party in the fourth as the Seahawks (8-5) moved to the brink of wrapping up a wild-card spot in the NFC. One win in Seattle's final three games — including matchups with lowly San Francisco and Arizona — should be enough to put the Seahawks into the postseason.

"It's really about the defense. I loved the way they played, they played so hard and so spirited," Seattle coach Pete Carroll

said. "It was almost poetic after last week's game that Bobby would get to block the field goal and he pulled it off and did it. That was an incredible play."

Minnesota (6-6-1) twice had scoring chances in the fourth quarter when it was still a one-score game but was turned away each time. Minnesota's chances of winning the NFC North took a major hit with its second straight loss, but the Vikings still hold the No. 6 spot

in the NFC.

"Part of it is being better on third downs. We haven't really done a good job there. Part of it is being better in the red zone," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "We had the ball on the 2-yard line and didn't score."

But much of the conversation centered on Wagner's block of Bailey's 47-yard attempt with 5:38 left and whether it was entirely legal. Wagner's jump

through a gap in Minnesota's offensive line was fine, but it appeared he used his teammates to gain leverage, which allowed him to come through and block the kick. A flag was initially thrown but was picked up by the officials.

Wagner said he attempted it four times in practice without a problem but acknowledged it could be tough to pull off the play during the fourth quarter of a tight game.

"When I did it in practice I was pretty fresh," Wagner said. Zimmer said he asked for an explanation of what happened but wasn't given one. He was told he couldn't challenge.

"Quite honestly, I didn't see what happened. I was told what happened," Zimmer said. Seattle took possession and Russell Wilson immediately scrambled 40 yards deep into Minnesota territory. Five plays later, Carson scored and Seattle finally had a cushion. Two plays after that, Jacob Martin sacked Minnesota's Kirk Cousins and the ball popped to Coleman, who weaved his way for the clinching touchdown. □

Vikings fire OC DeFilippo after another flat performance

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have fired offensive coordinator John DeFilippo, whose first season on the job ended after just 13 games amid a sharp decline in production by the offense over the past six weeks.

Stefanski will take over the play-calling duty from DeFilippo, whose work with new quarterback Kirk Cousins didn't materialize into consistent success.

The Vikings (6-6-1) have been held to under 300 total yards in four of their past five games. They've scored an average of 12.8 points in those four games.

Thanks to the struggles of several of their NFC competitors, though, they're still in control of the second wild-card spot with three



In this Sept. 23, 2018, file photo, Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator John DeFilippo looks at his play sheet during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

games to go. "I think the added piece of the disappointment is when your defense is playing so well," Cousins said after the Vikings went scoreless against the Seahawks until a garbage-time touchdown with 1:10 left in the

game. Stefanski has been an assistant coach with the Vikings since 2006, surviving two head coaching changes. He'll be the fourth play-caller in five years under Zimmer, whose first offensive coordinator, Norv Turner, resigned halfway

through the 2016 season. Pat Shurmur thrived in the role last year, with a career-best season for fill-in quarterback Case Keenum and a 13-3 record that propelled the Vikings to the NFC championship game. Shurmur, however, was hired as head coach of the New York Giants. He wanted to bring Stefanski with him, but Zimmer blocked that move out of a desire to keep him on his own staff.

The 40-year-old DeFilippo came from Philadelphia, lauded for his work as quarterbacks coach with Carson Wentz and then Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles. He had previously served one season as an offensive coordinator, in 2015 with Cleveland. The Vikings, who committed a guaranteed \$84 million to Cousins on an un-

precedented three-year contract, piled up the passing yards over the first eight games. Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs were dominating opposing teams, and the Vikings topped 400 total yards four times.

Lately, though, they've been unable to generate nearly enough points to complement another by effective run by Zimmer's renowned defense.

Zimmer publicly questioned DeFilippo's decision-making more than once over the past month, stressing his interest in more of a run-pass balance and chiding him at one point for essentially trying to trick too many teams rather than relying on the offense's strengths. Asked after the game in Seattle how the offense could be fixed, Zimmer said, "That's a good question." □

14 Clubs

Continued from Page 18

It didn't factor in the outcome — Johnson won by eight shots — but it sparked a new round of debate on distance, even though the wind was at his back and the last 120 yards are downhill with the grain. It didn't help that Johnson said he caught it a little thin. He was joking.

3-WOOD

Hideki Matsuyama might have hit an even longer shot with his 3-wood, except the Barry Burn got in the way. Matsuyama's tee shot on the 10th hole at Carnoustie in the first round of the British Open went an estimated 405 yards before it dropped over the edge and into the water. "I couldn't believe it," Matsuyama said. It was an example of how tough an Open can play when players have to guess how far the ball will roll on a fast links.

5-WOOD

Justin Thomas was 259 yards from the hole on the par-5 18th in a playoff at the Honda Classic. He went with 5-wood, which he thought was enough until he started farther right than he wanted. It was getting dark, and Thomas couldn't see. "All I was looking at was the water to see if it splashed," he said. It didn't. He saw a tiny white dot on the green, and the two-putt birdie on the par-5 18th gave Thomas the win.

3-IRON

Just about every tournament brought a moment that indicated Woods was back to being Woods. One of those moments was the opening round of the BMW Championship at rain-softened Aronimink. From 242 yards on the par-5 16th, Woods hit a 3-iron high and straight.

It landed 8 feet in front of the hole and stopped 5 feet next to the pin for an eagle on his way to a 62. It was the first time he had at least a share of the lead after any round in five years.

4-IRON

Koepka had a one-shot lead with three holes to

play in the PGA Championship when he came to the 248-yard 16th hole at Bellerive. He hit a laser of a 4-iron to 6 feet for a birdie that sent him to his second major of the year. "That will probably go down as one of the best shots I've ever hit under pressure," he said.

5-IRON

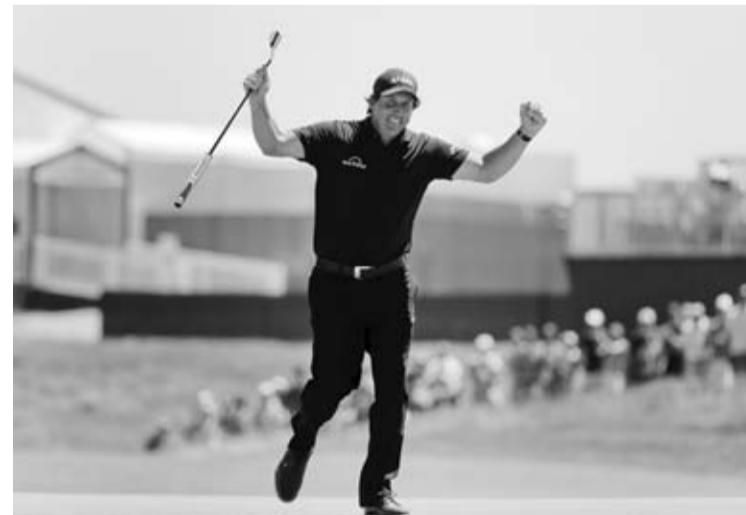
"We're not here to lay up. It's a major. You're going to have to take some chances at some point during the week," Marc Leishman said.

And that's what he did on the par-5 15th hole at Augusta National in the second round at the Masters. His tee shot was too far left, leaving trees between him and the flag. Leishman hooded his 5-iron and hit a 40-yard hook that just caught the front of the green, bounced up and rolled out to 6 feet for eagle.

6-IRON

Francesco Molinari started the back nine of his flawless finish in the Quicken Loans National with a 50-foot eagle putt. But his best shot was on the next hole, where his 6-iron to a back right pin settled just under 2 feet for birdie. The 11th hole at TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm yielded only one other birdie in the final round. Molinari shot 62 and won by eight.

7-IRON



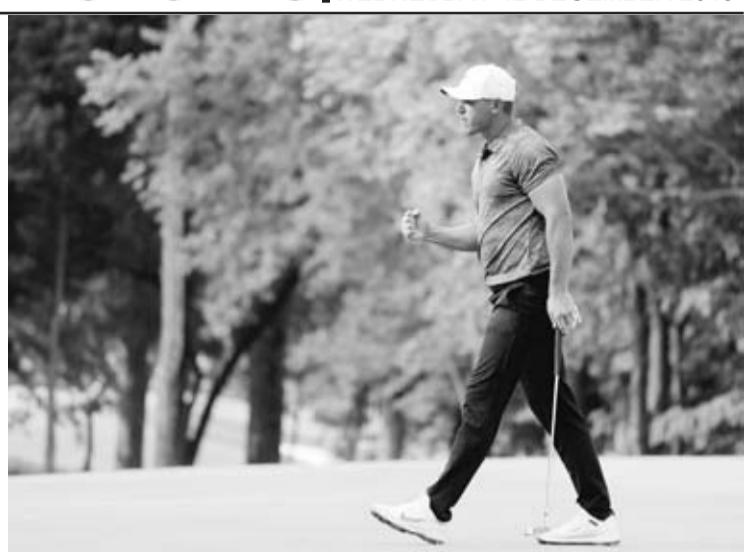
In this June 17, 2018, file photo, Phil Mickelson reacts after sinking a putt on the 13th hole during the final round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship, in Southampton, N.Y. It was on this hole in the third round where Mickelson purposely hit a putt while the ball was rolling off the green.

came to the par-3 17th hole, with a back pin on a peninsula green that was running hard and fast.

On one of the most daunting holes at Quail Hollow, his 7-iron from 230 yards hit the pin and settled 3 feet away for birdie that sent him to his second victory of the year.

8-IRON

Finau had a Ryder Cup debut to remember, especially on the par-3 16th hole. Finau and Koepka were 1 down when Finau's 8-iron was headed for the water. Instead, it struck a 12-inch wide board framing the green, soared into the air



In this Aug. 12, 2018, file photo, Brooks Koepka celebrates after making his birdie putt on the 16th green during the final round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Bellerive Country Club, in St. Louis. His 4-iron into the green was among the defining shots of the year.

Associated Press

of losing on European soil.



In this July 22, 2018, file photo, Francesco Molinari of Italy plays a shot on the 18th fairway during the final round for the 147th British Open Golf Championships in Carnoustie, Scotland. His lob wedge clinched the Open and was among the defining shots of the year.

Associated Press

and plopped down 3 feet away to square the match, which the Americans won on the 18th. It was as lucky

9-IRON

Koepka is most proud of his 9-iron into the par-3 17th for par because it was such a hard green to hold. But it was his 9-iron to a back pin on the par-5 16th hole at Shinnecock that settled 3 feet away. The birdie gave him a two-shot lead in the U.S. Open with two holes to play.

PITCHING WEDGE

Woods thought it was the moment that would lead to victory in the British Open. He was in a bunker on the 10th fairway and looked almost certain to lay up short of the burn. Instead, Woods generated enormous speed with a pitching wedge for a shot that narrowly cleared the vetted face of the bunker and came up a few feet short of the green.

It would have been the signature moment, except that he made double bo-

gey two holes later and slid from contention. He still called it his best of the year.

GAP WEDGE

Justin Thomas knew he needed a birdie on the 18th hole of the Mexico Championship to have even a remote chance. He did one better. His gap wedge from 119 yards spun back into the cup for an eagle and a 64, and it was good enough to get into a playoff. He wound up losing to Phil Mickelson on the first extra hole.

LOB WEDGE

Molinari played bogey-free in the final round at Carnoustie while all of his challengers made mistakes over the final few holes of the British Open.

He wasn't in the last group. The Open wasn't over. After a clutch drive that avoided a bunker on the 18th, the Italian hit lob wedge to 5 feet and holed the birdie putt, effectively clinching his first major championship.

PUTTER

The most memorable shot with the putter didn't go in the hole. Phil Mickelson only wanted to make sure it didn't go off the front of the 13th green on Saturday at the U.S. Open. So he trotted over and slapped at the ball as it was still moving, an egregious rules violation.

Mickelson says he knew the penalty (two shots) and liked that better than having to play from off the green. He also knew his U.S. Open was over. He made a 10 and shot 81, matching his worst score in the only major he hasn't won. □

as any shot in the Ryder Cup. And it still didn't help the Americans end 25 years



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

After greeting our patient, the first question I ask is: "How did you sleep last night"? Sleep is a basic human need, as important for good health as diet and exercise. Only when we are sound asleep do our bodies repair. When we sleep, our bodies rest but our brains are active, laying the groundwork for healing and productivity. Most people need eight hours of sleep nightly. Unfortunately, for 10% to 25% of us, not being able to get to sleep or insomnia can be a chronic condition. Approximately 98 million dollars a year is spent in the United States alone on over-the-counter sleep aids. Not getting enough restful sleep results in daytime sleepiness, increased accidents, problems concentrating and poor performance on the job and in school, and increased sickness and weight gain.

Lack of sleep seems to be a major stress factor. Regularly catching only a few hours of sleep can hinder metabolism and hormone production in a way that is similar to the effects of aging and the early stages of diabetes. Chronic sleep loss may speed the onset or increase the severity of conditions such as type II diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and memory loss. Medical researchers have shown that just one week of sleep deprivation altered subject's hormone levels and their capacity to metabolize carbohydrates. Research has shown that in developed countries, the average night's sleep has grown

shorter since the beginning of the century, from 9 hours to 7.5 hours. People who give up sleep to make more time for work and leisure are aging much faster than they should be.

During sleep-deprivation, researchers found, men's blood sugar levels took 40% longer to drop, compared with the natural sleep-recovery period; and their ability to secrete and respond to the hormone insulin, which helps regulate blood sugar, dropped by 30%. These changes reflect the effects of insulin resistance. In addition, the sleep-deprived men had higher nighttime concentrations of the hormone cortisol, which also helps regulate blood sugar, and lower levels of thyroid-stimulating hormone. These raised cortisol levels are often seen in older people, and may be involved in age-related insulin resistance and memory loss.

Many childhood sleep problems are related to irregular sleep habits or to anxiety. Persistent sleep problems may also be symptoms of emotional difficulties. "Separation anxiety" is a developmental landmark for young children. Bedtime is a time of separation. Some children will do all they can to prevent separation at bedtime.

The average woman aged 30-60 sleeps only six hours and forty-one minutes during the workweek. Conditions unique to women, like the menstrual cycle, pregnancy and menopause, can affect how well a woman sleeps. This is because the changing levels of hormones that a woman experiences throughout the month, like estrogen and progesterone, have an impact on sleep. Understanding the effects of these hormones, environmental factors and lifestyle habits can help women enjoy a good night's sleep.

Having trouble getting to sleep? The following ten suggestions might help. 1) Maintain a regular bed and wake time schedule including weekends. 2) Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine such as soaking in a hot bath and then reading a book or listening to soothing music. 3) Cre-

ate a sleep-conducive environment that is dark, quiet, comfortable and cool. 4) Sleep on a comfortable mattress and pillows. 5) Use your bedroom only for sleep and sex. It is best to take work materials, computers and televisions out of the sleeping environment. 6) Eat a healthy diet and finish eating at least 2-3 hours before your regular bedtime. 7) Exercise regularly. It is best to complete your workout at least a few hours before bedtime. 8) Avoid caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea, and soft drinks, or chocolate) close to bedtime. It can keep you awake. 9) Avoid nicotine (e.g. cigarettes, tobacco products) Used close to bedtime, it can lead to poor sleep. 10) Avoid alcohol close to bedtime. It can lead to disrupted sleep later in the night. 11) Do not run electrical wires under or over your bed.

Pharmaceutical drugs to get to sleep are not a healthy solution. These drugs do not produce the deep curative sleep needed to regain our health and are habit-forming. There are natural food supplements like 5 - HTP and Theanine (from Green Tea) can help considerably if taken with a little natural fruit juice thirty minutes or more before you eat. If your sleep cycle has changed because of travel or work shift change the natural supplement melatonin will help reset your sleep cycle. Acupuncture helps balance your body and encourages restful sleep. A visit to a natural physician could help you determine the cause of your sleep problem and how to best help it. Remember, you cannot restore your health without sound sleep.

Get the Point! Getting the right amount of sleep is vital, but just as important is the quality of your sleep. An adequate amount of sleep is as important as an adequate amount of exercise. Most of us do not fully appreciate the value of a full night's sleep. I believe that seven hours is an absolute minimum for most all of us, and most of us would benefit from closer to 9 hours. Ask any woman how much better she feels and looks when getting her full allotment of beauty sleep.□

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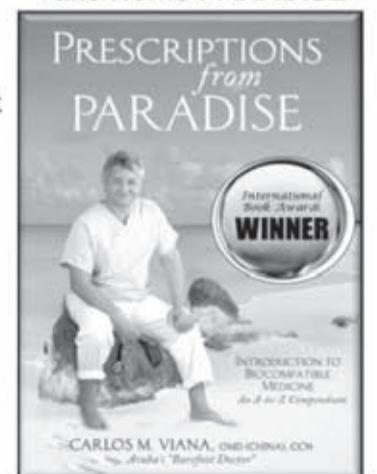
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Brands born on the internet embrace physical stores

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

SHORT HILLS, N.J. (AP) — Online retailers are getting physical.

A growing number of brands born on the internet are now opening brick-and-mortar stores and moving into the suburban malls once considered doomed as more Americans shopped online.

But they're taking it even further by doubling-down on the tactile experience. Online mattress retailer Casper, for instance, is opening stores that allow customers to book naps and test out mattresses before buying. Indochino — the online tailor — decided to borrow from the old Savile Row model where customers can be measured face-to-face for custom suits. "Online brands have embraced clicks-to-bricks," said Faith Hope Consolo, chairman of Prudential Douglas Elliman's retail division. "Shoppers love to touch, interact and try on in person and malls are upping the ante by offering immersive experiences that are exciting and memorable."

The store openings mark a major shift for formerly online-only brands that just a few years ago believed they didn't need a physical presence to generate robust sales growth.

Digital natives are now finding that the cost of acquiring new customers online is soaring as com-



In this Nov. 2, 2018 photo, a patron at the Mall at Short Hills in Short Hills, N.J., passes the Boll & Branch furniture store.

petition for eyeballs has increased the cost of online ads on Google and other platforms. At the same time, opening a store has become more affordable as higher mall vacancies have prompted landlords to offer flexible leases and other perks. It can be 10 times more expensive to acquire a new customer online as it is with a physical store, said Jim Ward, who heads up recruiting for online brands for mall owner CBL.

Others are following suit. Casper plans to have about 200 stores in the next two to three years, up from the current 20. And Fabletics, an active sportswear brand co-founded by celebrity Kate Hudson, aims

to quadruple the number to 100.

For a brand that's less than 10 years old, new store openings mean a 45 percent increase on average in online traffic, says a recent survey by International Council of Shopping Centers.

But not every mall is benefiting from the shift by online retailers. Digital brands are clustering in top-tier shopping centers, driving an increasingly large gap between the poshest of malls and those struggling to fill vacancies.

While many online brands are planting stores in tourist destinations around New York and Los Angeles, they're also launching stores in Oklahoma City and Birmingham, Alabama.

The physical stores often provide a level of convenience that the web lacks. At the upscale Mall at Short Hills in New Jersey, pre-den-

tal college student Calev Glick, 20, stopped by Indochino on a recent Friday to get measured for a suit for synagogue. He considers himself an "Amazon guy" because he doesn't have much time to go out shopping.

"At a traditional department store, you kind of hope it fits," Glick said. "Here, I am getting all the help I need. I am going to be here two hours and I'm going to get it shipped to my house."

Digital natives still account for a tiny fraction of overall mall tenants, yet they could soon have a "material" effect on mall revenues, says Bill Taubman, chief operating officer of mall operator and owner Taubman Centers.

Ron Harries, head of retail for Fabletics, said that opening physical stores wasn't in the company's original plan in late 2014, but it realized that a physi-

CBS sells Television City for \$750M to LA developer

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — CBS says it has sold Television City, its Los Angeles headquarters and production facility, to a real estate developer for \$750 million.

Shows on Television City sound stages include "The Late Late Show with James Corden" and "The Price is Right." They will continue to

be based there for at least five more years.

CBS said Monday that the buyer is Hackman Capital Partners and that it will have the right to use the Television City name in connection with its future operations on the property. The media giant says the sale will increase its "financial flexibility." □

cal location could acquire customers more efficiently. "This gives you an opportunity to reach customers who are not shopping online," Harries said.

In fact, Fabletics enjoys a two-and-a-half times increase in revenue from its most active customers within a 30-mile radius of a Fabletics store. Customers who live near a store are more likely to return an online purchase at that store, Harries said. That creates more opportunity for an extra sale. The sportswear company also electronically tags items in its stores and tracks what went in and out of the fitting room so it can learn which items shoppers were most likely to try-on but not purchase. Online retailers are also finding that they can provide a fuller, more immersive set of customer services at physical stores than they could on web browsers. □



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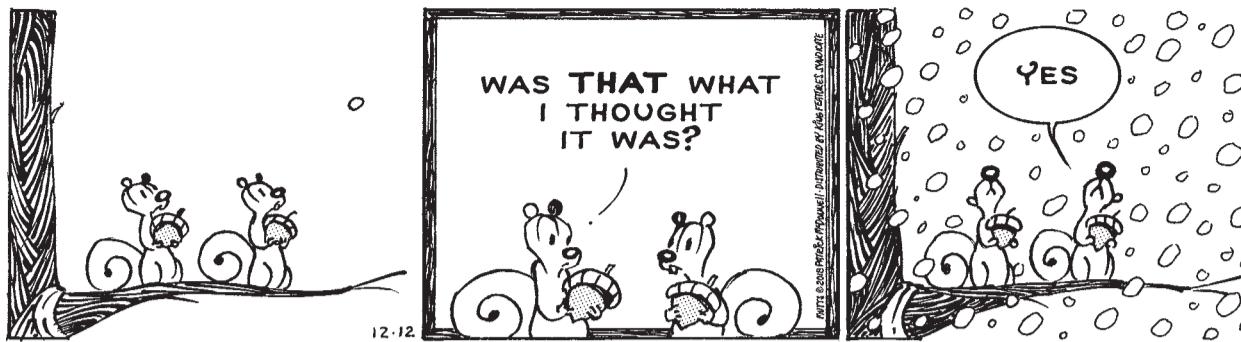
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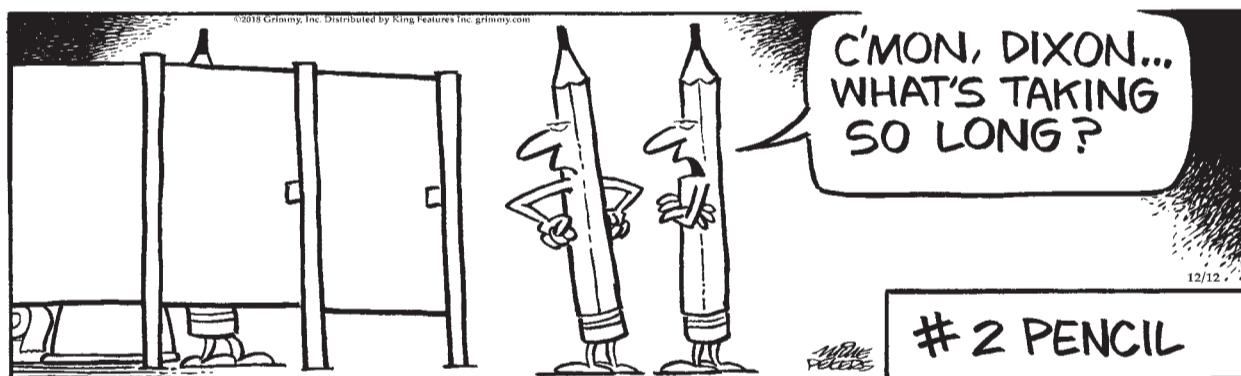
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3	8	2			9	7
2	8	9		5	6	
	1		2			
	3	7	4		3	
6						
3	5	1			7	
5					1	
2	1	7			8	
	4	5			3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	9	4	7	8	6	1	2	5
8	6	2	1	5	9	4	3	7
7	5	1	2	3	4	6	8	9
6	7	8	5	1	2	9	4	3
4	3	5	6	9	8	2	7	1
1	2	9	3	4	7	5	6	8
9	8	3	4	6	1	7	5	2
2	1	6	8	7	5	3	9	4
5	4	7	9	2	3	8	1	6

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14		15						16		
17				18						19		
20			21							22		
					23			24	25			
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33
34				35						36		
37			38					39				
40			41				42					
43		44					45					
46				47								
48	49	50		51	52	53				54	55	
56			57				58			59		
60			61				62					
63			64				65					

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/12/18

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	U	M	S	C	O	F	F	C	H	A	P
Z	O	N	E	A	L	I	B	I	L	A	V	
A	S	A	N	M	E	N	I	N	G	I	T	
R	E	V	S	O	A	K	L	E	D	S	E	
A	S	W	A	N	H	E	N					
T	A	I	W	A	N	M	E	T	O	R		
A	L	L	A	P	R	E	E	N	C	O		
S	L	I	T		G	L	A	D	S	C	A	R
K	I	N	S	O	U	N	D					
E	G	G	N	O								
E	D	G	A	R								
T	E	N	D	E								
C	L	A	Y	A								
H	I	T	S	M								
I	S	T	O	E								
M	O	T	E	L								
G	L	E	E	E								

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12/12/18

3 Heap
4 Have high hopes
5 Means of communication
6 Store event
7 BPOE folks
8 Ocean painting
9 "There's a ___ to my madness"
10 Sore
11 Get rid of
12 Make sharper
13 Steeple
14 Puerto ___
15 Candid
16 Layered rock
17 Canyon sound
18 Place to buy salami & rye
19 Now and ___; occasionally
20 In ___; all prepared
21 Park, NY; FDR's hometown
22 Female animal
23 Contented sound
24 Shockingly immoral incidents
25 Word attached to top or dog
26 Word attached to top or dog
27 Skier's incline
28 Word attached to top or dog
29 Word attached to top or dog
30 Word attached to top or dog
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1 BR WK 50 Room # 3208
Biulding C 17 weeks remain \$6500

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25 weeks remain \$12,000
1 BR WK # 1 Room # 5501
24 weeks remain \$ 11,000

Divi Village
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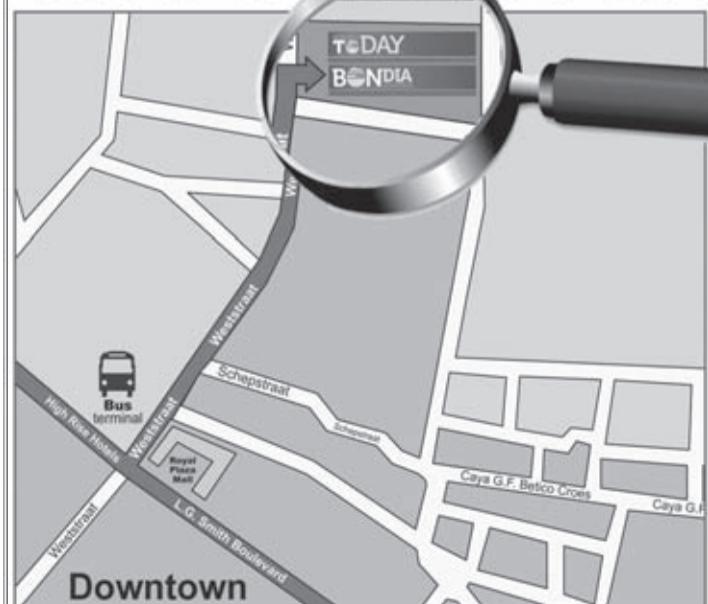
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Africa's solid waste is growing, posing a climate threat

By TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

No one would envy a life of scavenging in Kenya's biggest landfill, but Daniel Kiarie says he would never leave it.

Birds circle overhead and dogs scuffle as the 35-year-old moves through the filth of Nairobi, intent on useful finds. Ground-up garbage, from used hospital needles to battered toys, crunches under his feet. Thirty pungent acres stretch out before him at the center of the city's poorest slums.

"This is like any other job," Kiarie said.

"I would not leave it for a cozy office." In blue overalls, he oversees a hill of plastics he has salvaged to sell to recycling companies. "And I am not mad."

As the world meets again to tackle the growing threat of climate change, Africa expects to suffer the most from rising temperatures. And it is least equipped to fight back.

How the continent will tackle the solid waste produced by its more than 1.2 billion residents, many of them eager consumers in growing economies, is a major question for environmentalists and governments alike.

Most African countries lack the resources needed to process the growing amount of solid waste, said Maria Leonor Sales, a consultant with the African Development Bank. Nearly 20 of the world's 50 biggest dumpsites are on the continent, according to Waste Atlas.

On top of that, Africa is now a dumping ground for waste from other, often developed, countries, U.N. Environment pointed out in



In this photo taken Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, a woman who scavenges recyclable materials from garbage for a living is seen through a cloud of smoke from burning trash, surrounded by Marabou storks who feed on the garbage, at the dump in the Dandora slum of Nairobi, Kenya.

a report earlier this year. The fastest-growing regions for waste generation are sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where it is expected to triple and double, respectively, by 2050, the World Bank said in a September report. By then, the regions will be producing 35 percent of the world's trash.

Much of the waste in low-income countries, about 90 percent, is openly dumped or burned.

That contributes to worsening air quality while the poor are most affected, the World Bank said.

The burning of waste is a key contributor to climate change. In 2016, 5 percent of global emissions were generated from solid waste

management, excluding transportation, the bank's report said.

Safe, sustainable solid waste management could be an engine for economic growth, Sales said. Recycling and innovative products could create jobs while addressing social and environmental issues.

But governments would have to sign on and recognize the value of landfill pickers like Kiarie and the roughly 600 others who join him there every day.

"Perceptions are one of the main challenges as people do not view waste as a resource," said Catharina Schenck, a professor with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa who has researched waste pickers.

"This includes the policy-makers down to the consumers."

Transitioning to a greener economy and sustainable waste management will require informal workers like Kiarie to become part of a recognized system, following health and environmental guidelines and receiving stable incomes and benefits in return.

Experts say recycling companies then can be more efficient and have a guaranteed supply of raw materials.

Africa has the opportunity to unlock at least \$8 billion every year in resource value into the economy by changing the way we think about waste, said Professor Linda Godfrey, an expert on waste management with the South Africa-based Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The African Union has said member countries should divert 50 percent of the waste they produce to recycling, reuse and recovery by 2030. Currently, the continent recycles only 4 percent.

Associated Press

Unfortunately, investment in such projects in Africa is still seen as high-risk by the private sector, Godfrey said. She said strong political will is needed.

Kiarie knows the risks of his current work. Landslides in dumps can be deadly. The threat of injury or infection is high. The landfill where he roams, Dandora, was deemed full in 2001. Yet it continues to operate, supporting people from the bottom rungs of Nairobi's economy.

Kiarie's previous job as a day laborer in construction paid him \$5 but he would go without work for long periods, which almost got him evicted. Now he can take home between \$10 and \$50 a day from recycling.

He has moved into a bigger house and is now married with three children.

Most Kenyans, who look down on those who work in the country's sprawling landfills, live below \$2 a day.

"Nowadays I don't hear from the landlord," he said. □

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Nick Cannon sees irony in the way Oscars handled Kevin Hart

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nick Cannon isn't just defending his friend and fellow comedian Kevin Hart over the Oscars hosting controversy. He's also going after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences itself. Cannon was one of many cheering the decision to appoint Hart as host of the Feb. 24 telecast but then with dismay watched as his friend voluntarily stepped down following an outcry over past homophobic tweets. Hart contended he'd already addressed those tweets and they no longer represented his views.

Cannon, who on Monday was promoting his new show, "The Masked Singer," told The Associated Press he talked with Hart during the controversy, and said "I felt that the Academy actually could've handled it in a different way." He added that organizers should have done their research before offering Hart the gig.

The veteran "Wild N Out"



In this Dec. 10, 2018 photo, Nick Cannon poses for a portrait in New York to promote his new show, "The Masked Singer."

host also said there's an irony to this situation because he believes the Academy has its own skeletons when it comes to both racism and a lack of diversity. He recalled that as recently as 2014, the 6,000 or so Oscar voters were nearly 94 percent white and 77 percent male. "But things are

changing. We've allowed them to grow. So why can't we allow the people that the Academy employs or empowers to grow?" Cannon also noted how when actress Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award in 1940 for "Gone With the

Wind," she had to sit in the back corner of the venue alone because it had a strict no-blacks policy. "Did anybody receive an apology for that?" Cannon asked. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences did not respond to request for comment Tuesday.

Associated Press

Other comedians like Kathy Griffin and Hannah Gadsby have voiced their support for Hart even if they view his apology as underwhelming.

Gadsby, an openly gay comedian, said Hart could've used the situation as a learning lesson. Gadsby told The AP Hart could "bridge those things that he once said and to a certain point believed, that he no longer does. I think it's a lost moment that could've been a really constructive bridge."

Cannon also showed support for Hart on Twitter by re-posting old tweets from female comics Amy Schumer, Sarah Silverman and Chelsea Handler that also contained LGBTQ slurs and derogatory terms.

Cannon said he wanted to highlight "great artists" who he respects. "Again, there's clearly a double standard in Hollywood." He added: "I just wanted to show it doesn't matter what your race, your gender or even your perspective truly is. We all make mistakes — myself included." □

4 journalists and a newspaper are Time's Person of the Year

By SHAWN MARSH
Associated Press

Time magazine named four journalists and a newspaper on Tuesday as its 2018 Person of the Year for what it said was standing up for the truth in the face of persecution and violence.

The group, which Time called "the guardians," consists of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi; the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, where five people were shot to death at the newspaper's offices in June; Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, who has been arrested; and Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who have been detained in Myanmar for nearly a year.

"They are representative of a broader fight by countless others around the world — as of Dec. 10, at least 52 journalists have been murdered in 2018 —



This combination photo provided by Time Magazine shows their four covers for the "Person of the Year," announced Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

who risk all to tell the story of our time," Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal wrote in an essay.

Time selected them "for taking great risks in pursuit of greater truths, for the imperfect but essential quest for facts that are central to civil discourse, for speaking up and speaking out." Khashoggi was killed two months ago when The Washington Post columnist, who had lived in the U.S., visited Saudi Arabia's consulate in Turkey for paperwork so he could get married.

He had been critical of the Saudi regime.

Reesa is an award-winning Philippine journalist who, along with the online news service she heads, has been accused of tax evasion. Her website has been critical of the government of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, and she

claims the charges are politically motivated.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been imprisoned for nearly a year in Myanmar after investigating a massacre of Rohingya Muslims. Four journalists and a sales assistant were killed by a gunman at the Capital Gazette newspaper last spring. Forty-six journalists worldwide were killed in 2017, according to data collected by the Committee to Protect Journalists. The nonprofit group reported 50 deaths in 2016 and 73 in 2015. There were 262 journalists imprisoned worldwide in 2017.

Since 1927, Time has selected individuals or groups to appear on its cover for the end-of-the-year feature. This was the first time someone named was no longer alive. Those chosen this year will appear in four different cover photos. □

Associated Press

'Ralph' tops box office again, 'Aquaman' is a hit in China

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the calm before the Christmas storm at the box office, "Ralph Breaks the Internet" remained No. 1 for the third straight week, while the upcoming DC Comics superhero film "Aquaman" arrived with a cannonball-sized splash in Chinese theaters.

For the second week in a row, no new wide releases opened in North American theaters, allowing Disney's animated sequel to again lead domestic ticket sales with \$16.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The top six films at the box office were all unchanged. Universal's "The Grinch," still a major draw in its fifth weekend, trailed in second with \$15.2 million. But the weekend's biggest new arrival was in China, where Warner Bros.' "Aquaman" debuted with \$93.6 million in ticket sales. That marked a new opening-weekend record for both Warner Bros. and DC in China. Considering the checkered recent history of



This image released by Disney shows characters, from left, Ralph, voiced by John C. Reilly, Yess, voiced by Taraji P. Henson and Vanellope von Schweetz, voiced by Sarah Silverman in a scene from "Ralph Breaks the Internet."

DC films ("Justice League," "Suicide Squad"), the big launch in China was a promising sign for the spin-off starring Jason Momoa. "Adding to the success of 'Wonder Woman,' this is a really solid performance and portends big numbers for North America in two weeks when it opens," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "This is a movie, along with 'Mary Poppins Returns' and 'Bumblebee'

and other movies, that's going to give December that boost that a 'Star Wars' movie would give us."

"Aquaman" will expand to 40 international countries next week and arrive in North American theaters Dec. 21.

"Aquaman" wasn't the only big-budget holiday season release receiving a lift this week. Paramount's "Transformers" prequel "Bumblebee" played a one-night sneak preview in 326 theaters nationwide ahead of its Dec. 21 release. Paramount declined to share ticket figures but domestic distribution chief

Kyle Davies said theaters were mostly sold out. Perhaps more importantly, the film directed by Travis Knight and starring Hailee Steinfeld aided its word of mouth with largely glowing reviews — a rarity for the "Transformers" franchise. Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns," due out Dec. 19, also helped its cause with four Golden Globe nominations Thursday, including best picture, comedy or musical, and acting nods for Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

The feel-good interacial road trip period tale "Green Book" fared even

Associated Press

better at the Globes (five nominations, including best picture, comedy or musical, and acting nods for Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen) and had good results at the box office to show for it. In its fourth week of release, "Green Book" held with a rare 0 percent drop, earning \$3.9 million in 1,181 theaters. It has grossed \$20 million in total. Yorgos Lanthimos' comic period drama "The Favourite" continued to pick up steam. The acclaimed Fox Searchlight release, starring Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, expanded into 91 theaters over the weekend to gross \$1.4 million (\$15,000 per theater).

A more traditional royal drama, "Mary Queen of Scots," also opened strongly in limited release. The Focus Features title, starring Saoirse Ronan as Mary Stuart and Margot Robbie as Elizabeth I, debuted in four theaters with a robust \$50,045 per-theater average. Lis Bunnell, president of distribution for Focus, said the film's modern spin "made it resonate with audiences in a powerful way paralleling so much of what is still going on today for women." □

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CREED 2
SPANISH WITH ENOUGH SUBTITLES (PG-13)
MON-FRI 6:00 | 8:45
SAT-SUN 2:05 | 6:50

cxc MON-SUN 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

TP MON-THU 6:00 | 8:45
FRI 6:00 | 8:45 | 11:30
SAT 3:15 | 6:00 | 8:45 | 11:30
SUN 3:15 | 6:00 | 8:45

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS
MARGOT ROBBIE | SAORISE RONAN
MON-SUN 6:30 | 9:05

ELLIOT THE LITTLEST REINDEER
JOSH HUTCHERSON | MORENA BACCARIN
MON-FRI 4:30
SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:30

BACKTRACE
SYLVESTER STALLONE | RYAN GUZMAN
MON-SUN 4:45

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG)
MON-FRI 3:50 | 4:15 | 8:40
FRI 3:50 | 6:15 | 8:40 | 11:05
SAT 1:15 | 3:50 | 4:15 | 8:40 | 11:05
SUN 1:15 | 3:50 | 6:15 | 8:40
SPANISH
SAT-SUN 2:45

ROBIN HOOD
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)
MON-SUN 5:10

THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (R)
MON-FRI 9:35
SAT-SUN 9:35 | 11:35

THE GRINCH
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG)
MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:35 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 2:45 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 9:00

cxc SAT-SUN 1:35

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Study finds female-led films outperform male ones

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A study organized by Time's Up, the organization formed to promote gender equality, has found that female-led films consistently outperform male-led movies at the box office. The study analyzed the 350 top-grossing films worldwide released between January 2014 and December 2017.

Researchers found that in films with small, medium and large budgets, all averaged better global grosses when a woman was listed as the lead star.

The study, conducted by the talent agency Creative Artists Agency and the



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Gal Gadot in a scene from "Wonder Woman."

Associated Press

tech company shift7, found that films that passed the Bechdel test do better, too. The Bechdel test, an invention of the cartoonist Alison Bechdel, rates whether a movie featuring two female characters having a conversation about something other than a man. □

Brian Tyree Henry: 'I feel everything'

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Brian Tyree Henry filmed his scenes in "If Beale Street Could Talk," he wept. When he saw the finished film, he wept again.

In Barry Jenkins' lyrical adaptation of James Baldwin's celebrated novel, Henry plays Daniel Carty, the just-out-of-jail friend of Fonny (Stephan James). When Fonny and Tish (KiKi Layne) run into Daniel on the street, they retreat to Fonny and Tisch's apartment to catch up. The intimate conversation aches with the pain of incarceration: Daniel's past, Fonny's future. It's a devastating but beautiful crescendo: two vulnerable black men, contemplating a world pitted against them.

"I was sobbing. I was like: Why am I crying at myself? Is that weird that I'm crying at myself?" says Henry. "It really, really, really sat with me. That could be me talking to my friend, me talking to my nephews, me talking to my brothers."

It's no surprise that one of the most moving and profound scenes of the year happens to be one with Henry in it. On stage and screen, in big parts and small, the 36-year-old actor's soulful sensitivity and vast range has been on display with remarkable regularity.

There is, of course, his aspiring, oft-irritated rapper Alfred Miles, aka Paper Boi, on "Atlanta": the stony, eye-rolling face to the series' surrounding absurdity. Its second season earned Henry his second Emmy nomination in two years. (His first was for a guest appearance on "This Is Us.") The Broadway revival of Kenneth Lonergan's "Lobby Hero," in which he played a conflicted security guard, won Henry his first Tony nod. And a few weeks before "Beale Street" hits theaters, Henry made an equally potent, if far more menacing impression as a politician in Steve McQueen's "Widows."

"I just don't want to lie on

them," Henry says during a recent interview. "These characters need a voice and I don't want to be a

years could have imagined something so fantastic happening in my career. But I need to let 'em go, these

care — to see that people are human, that no one is impervious to pain, that pain hurts, that it takes time



In this Nov. 15, 2018 photo, Brian Tyree Henry poses for a portrait in New York to promote his latest film, "If Beale Street Could Talk."

Associated Press

person to lie on them. It's sounding all deep but it's true. I have a special connection to every single character that I've been blessed to touch and I just want to make sure that I don't lie on their journey, that I don't lie on who they are, that I don't lie on their hearts."

Henry has a deep reservoir of emotion that never feels very far from the surface, and he speaks volubly, sometimes nearing tears, about the fictional lives that people his brain. Henry simply feels a lot — maybe too much so.

"I feel everything," he grants with a knowing grin. "These past two years have been a topsy-turvy thing for me. I never in a million

guys." "That's been kind of a problem as of late," Henry sighs. "I tend to wear them as badges of honor, which they are."

Henry grew up the baby in a Fayetteville, North Carolina, family; his sisters were already adults. His parents divorced when he was young and after graduating sixth grade, he was sent to live with his father, then in his 70s, in Washington D.C. After attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, he got his master's from the Yale School of Drama. Acting, he says, saved his life because it allowed him to express what he observed.

"Most of my life, at a very young age, I got to see what it was like to be surrounded by the lack of

for things to heal," says Henry. "I spent most of my life constantly trying to hold on to the things that mattered."

His Broadway debut came in the original cast in "The Book of Mormon," but it's been "Atlanta" that catapulted Henry's career. Along with lending his voice to the upcoming "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," he's already shot four films due out next year (including an action comedy alongside Melissa McCarthy). At the moment, he's shooting the Brooklyn-set indie "The Outside Story."

Henry's ascendance has partly paralleled Alfred's more humbling, fitful rise on "Atlanta" — a comparison

not lost on Henry.

"Alfred, this season, I had a time. I was like: This prom date sucks right now. But I had to confront it," says Henry. "It is imitating my life, in a way. That's why I'm glad that Alfred found me."

"Atlanta," particularly in episodes like "Barbershop" and "Woods" (which was a tribute for Henry to his deceased mother), has given the broadest platform for his talent. But films like "If Beale Street Could Talk" have shown how much Henry can do with just a handful of scenes. His presence instantly adds depth and gravity.

"He came onto set, maybe he was there for a day in a half," marvels James. "He was already a huge Baldwin fan, but what he was able to bring to that moment ... You talk about black love; that's another form of it. Black love between brothers. That brotherly bond where we're sharing our deepest, most intimate fears, the things that have broken us, how do we maintain our strength through these moments."

Jenkins has said those scenes solidified the whole project. For Henry, they capture the duality of life as a black man.

"There's always a constant audition process, I call it, of having to prove to people that you belong where you are," says Henry, burly and broad-shouldered, remembering when Yale students would assume he wasn't a classmate. "I've been very fortunate to come to this point in my life where I'm done doing that."

Henry lives in Harlem, just a few blocks from where "Beale Street" was filmed. It's almost as if his characters are encroaching, ever closer, on the actor, despite his best efforts to leave them at the door. But he's learning to live with his hypersensitivity.

"I wouldn't change that because it means I'm present. It means that I see you," says Henry. "But then at the same time I need to figure out how to flip it so I see myself too." □

Carbon conscious: how one man is shrinking his footprint

By FRANK JORDANS

DANIEL NIEMANN

Associated Press

STOLBERG, Germany (AP)

— Some people count their calories. Dirk Gratzel counts his carbon emissions

The software entrepreneur from Germany is among a small but growing number of people looking for ways to cut their personal greenhouse gas emissions from levels that scientists say are unsustainable if global warming is to be curbed.

A keen hunter, Gratzel says the time he spends outdoors has sharpened his senses to the fact that something was wrong.

"I see that nature has changed a lot compared to how it used to be," he said.

After a day in the woods collecting bags of rubbish two years ago, Gratzel decided to take drastic action. But when he looked for ways to shrink his environmental footprint, the 50-year-old found few practical instructions.

"It's one thing for us to cause so much damage and leave the place looking like a pig sty," he said. "But the fact we don't even have the slightest clue how to clear it all up again, that's a lot more dramatic."

The issue of carbon footprints is one that negotiators at the U.N. climate talks in Katowice, Poland, this week are also debating, albeit on a global scale.

Experts say top-down measures by governments won't be enough. Individuals will need to change the way they consume, travel and work if carbon emissions are to fall enough to keep the world from warming by more than the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) that's considered safe.

After much searching, Gratzel found Matthias Finkbeiner, who heads the Institute of Environmental Technology at Berlin's Technical University.

Finkbeiner is a leading figure in the field of environmental accounting, but much of his work has been



In this Dec. 7, 2018 photo Dirk Gratzel walks with his dog at his hunting ground in Stollberg, western Germany. Gratzel counts his carbon emissions.

Associated Press

for companies and international organizations trying to calculate carbon footprints at a much larger scale. He had never assessed a single individual before, but after accepting that Gratzel was serious, Finkbeiner agreed to help him calculate his footprint as precisely as possible, including emissions he had been responsible for since birth.

First, Gratzel documented his life in minute detail.

"Everything I eat, drink, and how long I shower. How much I drive, where to, what means of transport I use, what I consume, how much garbage I produce and what types," said

Gratzel, who spent three months entering the data into vast spreadsheets. "In parallel to that I made an inventory of all my material belongings."

Gratzel was shocked to find his annual emissions were the equivalent of 27 metric tons of carbon dioxide — more than twice the German average of 11 tons.

"We found that his footprint was pretty enormous," said Finkbeiner, who attributed a substantial share of emissions to Gratzel's extensive business travel.

"There were many insights that may not have been new to us, but they were to him," he added. "For example, cheese causes

a lot of environmental damage." With the help of Finkbeiner and two environmental groups, Gratzel set about shrinking that footprint. This included improving the insulation on his 18th-century house, getting rid of his SUV and traveling mostly by train and bike. "I don't fly at all anymore. I've reduced my consumption to an absolute minimum and changed my eating habits," he said. His current annual emissions are about six or seven tons per year.

The final stage is the most daunting: Finkbeiner and his team have calculated that Gratzel's lifetime emissions amount to almost



In this Dec. 7, 2018 photo Dirk Gratzel, left, and neighbor kid Elias feed their chicken in Stollberg, western Germany.

Associated Press

1,180 tons of CO2.

Scientists believe an annual budget of about 2 tons per person is sustainable, meaning Gratzel is way over budget.

"I've got a lot to make up for," he said. Planting trees — a common means of offsetting emissions — would require Gratzel to grow enough oaks and beeches to cover 100 hectares (almost 250 acres) of land.

He and the researchers are trying to find more realistic options and also lower his current emissions further.

Fritz Reusswig, a sociologist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, says efforts such as Gratzel's are "important and interesting" but perhaps too elaborate.

Reusswig has spent the last year monitoring the efforts of 100 Berlin families to shrink their carbon footprint.

"We give them advice on how to save energy or reduce CO2" such as by adjusting their refrigerator, switching electricity supplier or changing their eating habits, he said.

"Many of the participants have average footprints, about 11.5 tons of CO2 per year, or higher, Reusswig said. "They have two cars, two kids, but worry about the climate and are wondering what they can do."

So far, the families have cut their emissions by about 20 percent, he said. "Some things hurt, others don't hurt a lot. After two weeks, cycling doesn't hurt as much as people thought it would at the start, for example."

Gratzel says he has no regrets, even if it means no more flights, no more car commutes, showering for less than a minute, consuming no more milk and almost no meat.

"Overall the changes in my life have been a great improvement," he said. "The only thing I wanted to do that hasn't worked is giving up coffee. I simply can't cope without any coffee."

While train journeys take longer than driving, Gratzel says he can work on board and arrives refreshed. □